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Environment Ministers Discuss 'Black Triangle'

AU2408103793 Prague CTK in English 2115 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Prague, August 20 (CTK)— The ecological problems of the black triangle, an area heavily damaged by open-cast coal mining and power station emissions, were discussed by the Czech, Polish and German environment ministers at a meeting in Prague today.

The area includes parts of Northern Bohemia, Germany and Poland.

The ministers agreed that the building of a system to monitor emissions was being held up by European Community (EC) administrative problems. However, Czech Environment Minister Frantisek Benda said the whole system should start operating by the beginning of next year.

German Environment Minister Klaus Topfer said that a letter had been sent to the EC environmental commissioner in which the ministers expressed their common desire for the network to start operating as soon as possible. The 1.6 million ecu which the PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] program has set aside for this purpose is not so big that it cannot be freed at once, he added.

The black triangle project will have three stages, Topfer explained. The first will record the present state of the environment in the area, the second will organize the exchange of data between the three countries, and create international agreements to this end. The third stage will concern investments to reduce ecological damage.

An international commission is currently at work in the black triangle, systematically measuring pollution. In North Bohemia there are three stations monitoring emissions. Of these, 21 [as received] stations have been selected for the common monitoring network, to be joined by 12 from Germany and 11 from Poland. PHARE resources will pay for analyzers of carbon dioxide and the ozone layer.

Sanctions 'Disastrous' for Balkan Countries

93BA1357A Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian 30 Jul 93 pp 48-49

[Article by Vojislav Lalic: "Neighbors and Sanctions: The Fate of the Balkans"]

[Text] "The sanctions against the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] could have disastrous consequences for Bulgarian trade with central and West Europe." This warning from Prime Minister Lyuben Berov is being repeated like a refrain in Bucharest and in Athens, as well as in Budapest.

The past 12 months in which the sanctions have been in effect will be remembered in the Balkans as a dramatic period. In Yugoslavia, above all.

The consequences of the devastating penalties are felt at every step: in the hospitals, factories, stores, on the farm and in the city, on the international stage, where all doors have been closed to Yugoslavia.

Nor have the sanctions spared neighboring countries, particularly Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece. They are losing more than $6 billion a year. The prison in which Yugoslavia has found itself has not spared the broader region either.

Checkpoints for Nations

Yugoslavia has been experiencing an unprecedented drama. In 1992 alone, the social product dropped 27 percent, and output 22 percent. The average income fell to below 20 German marks. More than 800,000 people have been on mandatory leave, the "gray economy" is flourishing, and inflation is breaking world records.

No one has been able to calculate precisely the size of the direct losses from the sanctions. Fabulous amounts are involved in any case.

It is painful even for neighbors, especially Bulgaria. It was naturally oriented toward Yugoslavia—just like Greece and Romania—that is, it reached central and West Europe through Yugoslavia. Now, all of those strong threads have been severed at one stroke by the Security Council.

"Bulgaria has been cut off from the rest of Europe and is suffering immense losses thereby. We expect the United Nations to help us in overcoming the difficulties resulting from application of the sanctions against Yugoslavia." This is stated in a letter recently sent from Sofia to UN General Secretary Butrus-Ghali in which specific measures are proposed for compensation of losses.

Direct losses in Bulgaria exceeded $1.2 billion last year. This year, they will be greater than $2 billion. Industry, trade, and transportation are being hurt.

But that is not all. The Bulgarian people will also pay a high social price because of the drop in output, higher inflation, and rising unemployment.

The appeal to the United Nations, however, has gone without a response. If it is any consolation to the Bulgarians, and it is not, their country was on the list of five countries in the world most hurt by sanctions. The others are Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, and Uganda (because of a tie-in arrangement).

The Sanctions Committee of the United Nations has recommended to international organizations that they find ways of "mitigating the adverse effects of the sanctions on the economies of those countries." However, that is as far as it has gone for the present.

In the meantime, Sofia has called upon permanent members of the Security Council to open a transportation corridor across Yugoslavia: from Gradina via Nis, Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Subotica all the way to Szeged.

They also requested favorable treatment for shipping on the Danube, that is, passage of Bulgarian convoys under international observation.

"The protests and strikes initiated in transportation companies represent strong pressure on the government to solve problems related to application of the sanctions against Yugoslavia," states a note which Sofia sent to the ambassadors of the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, and China.

The appeal ended up in the diplomatic files of the world powers. The Russians said yes, and the Americans no. Washington supposedly cannot understand how the proposed corridor could fit into strict measures against Yugoslavia.

How To Detour Around Serbia

Greece was not on the list of the most threatened countries for the simple reason that it has not appealed to the United Nations for aid. It is suffering immense losses, especially since April, when the squeeze on Serbia and Montenegro was tightened.

Last year, Greece lost in excess of approximately $1 billion. That sum will be considerably larger this year, perhaps even double. The trade sector and tourism are being hurt.

Border crossings are deserted. Trucks can no longer pass through Yugoslavia, although that is the shortest route from Greece to West Europe. Now they have to go around, by a poorer and most expensive route: through Bulgaria and Romania.

Other solutions are being sought, by sea from Italy. But carrying the trucks from Patras in the Peloponnesus to Trieste is exorbitantly expensive. In practice, this is not a solution.

"You can imagine how I feel when I wait for a ferry or for permits to enter Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary, while tons of tropical fruit, tomatoes, and strawberries are rotting in my truck. You feel like throwing up your hands," one peasant from near Salonika complained to the Greek newspapers.

In the Northern Greece Chamber of Merchants and Exporters, they say that many of its members are already without work. But, they say, that is only the beginning.

In happy times, when in the Balkans they did not even know what sanctions were, 40,000 Greek trucks traveled Yugoslav highways annually. They were mainly reefers in which farmers were shipping tropical fruit and vegetables to customers in West Europe. Because the freight was seasonal and thereby highly perishable, there was a constant contest in terms of kilometers and hours. That is why for quite some time now the Greek farmer has been unable to sleep peacefully. Especially because, if the sanctions persist, which they will, he will lose traditionally good customers in the West.

The government is compensating the farmers insofar as the shallow government treasury allows. Aid has also been requested from the European Community for construction and expansion of seaport and roads in western Greece, toward Italy. "Just so it is not too late," the disturbed farmers are already warning.

The Choppy Waters of the Danube

Nor has tourism been spared. There are fewer and fewer Yugoslavs summering on Greek shores and also motorized foreign tourists who until recently traveled safely from Maribor to Djevdjelija. Now, even they must seek roundabout ways of reaching Corinth, Cape Colonna, and Crete.

Nor has it been easy on the Romanians. They have been caught between two fires: the demand of the United States, the EC, and the United Nations to apply the sanctions consistently and the immense losses which their economy is suffering as a consequence.

In Bucharest, they say that last year they lost $2.5 billion. Now that the noose around Yugoslavia has been tightened still more, the losses will be incomparably greater.

But the Security Council is inexorable. There is a new call for the sanctions to be applied without objection.

"Bucharest will consistently implement all the decisions of the world organization, but only up to the moment when this threatens to cause a conflict between Romania and Yugoslavia," Prime Minister Vacaroiu declared recently.

This warning, however exaggerated it might appear, was obviously no accident. This was evident at the point when Yugoslav ships were caught this winter in the waters of the Danube. Led by the tug Bihac, they refused to obey demands for inspection of the cargo, alluding to the right of free shipping on the international waters of the Danube. A drama was on the horizon. Bucharest and Sofia were under fierce pressure from the United States and West Europe. They were supposed to stop our vessels at any price, even by force! And it is well-known what that could mean in practice.

Incidentally, Bulgarian Prime Minister Lyuben Berov has pointed that up without diplomatic euphemism:

"Halting (Yugoslav) vessels by force would have had unpredictable consequences, and this could have resulted in serious environmental disturbances. Those who are demanding use of all available means can just send 'blue helmets' and let them do the shooting," the Bulgarian prime minister said.

Instead of the "blue helmets," whom Prime Minister Berov mentioned, "Boston whalers" were sent to Romania and Bulgaria—six patrol boats which Washington donated to those countries for more effective observation of the increasingly choppy waters of the Danube. Taught by earlier experience (the sanctions against Iraq and Libya), Sofia at the same time applied to

the UN Committee for Application of the Sanctions for financial aid, which it still has not received.

The sanctions have also hurt Hungary, but less than Yugoslavia's other neighbors. According to a calculation of the Ministry for International Economic Relations, Hungary expects total losses of $500 million. Budapest is not against tightening the screws against Yugoslavia, but it is trying to make its role in this as little visible as possible.

This is understandable in view of the fact that many Hungarian routes to the eastern countries and the Black Sea cross our country, or, as the Hungarians like to say, cross the "little Yugoslavia." Especially when we bear in mind the complexity of relations between Budapest and Bucharest.

The sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro have not spared anyone in the Balkans.

Everyone is getting along as best he knows and can. There are plans to build a main north-south highway from the Danube to the Aegean. It would link Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece. There is also talk about a highway and railroad that would bring Bulgaria—via Macedonia, Albania, and the Adriatic—closer to Italy, that is, to West Europe. That would be the shortest and fastest connection between the two seas: the Black Sea and Adriatic Sea. Greece is trying to obtain the money to build a seaport and roads in the west of the country.

But all of that takes time and a great deal of money. Appeals are persistently arriving from Kiev and Belgrade, on precisely those grounds, for free shipping on the Danube to be reestablished at the least. That river is now almost dead because of the present games.

The sanctions have set the Balkans back perhaps more than all the other countries together. No matter that they have also badly hurt Ukraine, Russia, Macedonia, Turkey, and also the countries of the Near and Middle East, whose shortest routes to Europe cross Yugoslavia.

Commentary Claims U.S. Usurping UN Role in Bosnia

AU2308130493 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 19 Aug 93 p 5

[Commentary by Svetlana Mikhova: "Everyone Is Covered in Muck, Only the President's Frock Is Clean"]

[Text] The verbal attack made by Madeleine Albright, the permanent U.S. representative at the United Nations, against the two generals commanding the UN "blue helmets" in Bosnia are very reminiscent in their logic of an old joke. A circus conjuror shoots at a balloon filled with muck, and when the lights go on a splendid effect is revealed: Everyone is covered in dirt, only the maestro's white frock coat remains unsullied.

Forgetting her ambassadorial role, Ms. Allbright ingenuously declared that she was shocked by the "irresponsible" behavior of the two high-ranking UN officers in daring to express doubts about the policy of the U.S. President. The issue concerned the White House's intentions to carry out air-strikes on the Serbian positions and the disagreement with this position expressed by Belgian General Francis Briquemont and British General Hayes. In an official letter to Butrus-Ghali, the high U.S. diplomat rebuked the two generals for allowing themselves to express their doubts as professional soldiers in the plans prepared by the U.S. President, who has never served in the Army.

In the meantime, it became clear that, next month, Bill Clinton is considering signing a directive to expand U.S. participation in UN military operations. The American infantry will then have to carry out orders issued by foreign senior officers. What confusion would arise in the minds of the U.S. Rangers if their commanders' orders fail to conform to their President's views. This is intolerable for the only superpower that remains, and Albright acted quite correctly in support of the new U.S. doctrine—that only the leader of the United States, and no one else, is entitled to express doubts. When a high-ranking State Department official recently voiced doubts regarding the U.S. role as world leader, his chief Warren Christopher declared: "We are a blessed and strong nation, and have to assume the responsibility of world leader."

Deviations from the doctrine are not allowed. According to this doctrine, only the United States, and not the United Nations, can decide what the new state and territorial arrangement is to be in Bosnia; who among the warring parties is the aggressor and who is the victim; who is to receive the victor's crown; and who is to be forced to put on the yoke of retribution. The Americans, not the Somalis, decide which of the Somali leaders has influence over the people and with whom negotiations should be held. The new U.S. doctrine is like the circus conjuror's magic wand. Everything is resolved in an instant. It will be no surprise if, tomorrow, the Bosnians are ordered to go to Somalia and join their Muslim brothers, while any Christians that there may be in Somalia are deported to Bosnia. Will anyone dare to oppose the diplomatic genius of the world leader? Has it not finally become clear that all of us in this world are covered in dirt, and only the U.S. President wears a pristine white frock coat? God forbid that anyone should take a look at the maestro's pants.

Dailies Publish Attacks on Berov Cabinet

AU2308101593 Sofia BTA in English 0930 GMT 23 Aug 93

[From BTA press review]

[Text] Sofia, August 23 (BTA)—"Politicking Ends With Berov," runs the headline of a signed article in OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK, according to which "Prime Minister Lyuben Berov will go out because he cannot stay any longer." "The important thing is that no one after him will be able to take office in the same way," the author believes. He says that "all who backed Berov at his election to the premiership have distanced themselves from him."

"Politicians will come round to the idea of a new cabinet overhaul in the autumn," Dr. Konstantin Trenchev, leader of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation (one of the two influential trade unions in this country), says in an interview for STANDART NEWS. According to him, "the state institutions have been paralysed for quite a long time." "Wary of mistakes, the cabinet is doing nothing," Dr. Trenchev says. In his view, it is obvious "the cabinet is not doing its job and is not trying to do it."

"Your disgraceful government has been antinational from the very beginning," says a signed article in ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME, the daily of the extraparliamentary Bulgarian Agrarian Party, headlined "The Phenomenon Berov and Co."

"The Berov cabinet will fall by October," Mikhail Nedelchev MP of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), member of the Radical Democratic Party, told electors in Rudozem (southern Bulgaria). He said the SDS wants new elections in order to take power again. According to Mr. Nedelchev, the SDS does not want to share power with anyone.

OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK reports that SDS leader Filip Dimitrov told SDS sympathizers in the Danubian town of Silistra last night that early parliamentary elections were needed to normalize the progress of the reform and strengthen the democratic changes in the country.

Commentary Urges Berov To Resist Unions' Claims

AU2008193693 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 18 Aug 93 p 6

[Unattributed commentary: "Prime Minister Should Not Yield to Trade Unions"]

[Text] Instead of making public explanations to the trade unions and calling news conferences, one would expect

the prime minister of the present government to understand that, in trilateral partnership [in the National Council for Trilateral Cooperation], every member should know his place.

There are places for the state, the employers, and the employees. It is wrong for bosses of trade unions with an identified membership to pretend to be politicians, for the employers to beg for aid, and for the politicians to behave like hired workers.

If Professor Berov really wants to keep his post, he should finally prove that he has been entrusted with ruling a state, not with directing an operetta, all the more so because nothing would be easier for the government, although its level of support is shaky, to show the world a lot of dirty linen belonging to the so-called professional trade unions, especially linen belonging to the bosses who now want the government to return to them the property that has been amassed with the membership subscriptions of millions of Bulgarians. It is no accident that, to date, no count has been made of the memberships of the trade unions; each of them has an interest in its membership remaining unknown so that it can claim a larger portion of the trade union property.

If Prof. Berov is perhaps poorly informed, someone can tip him off. For example, he should check on what Podkrepa is doing at Arsenal, where it is playing the role of a party organization at the workplace; or he should check on Krustyu Petkov's trade union [Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria], which has been organizing the spontaneous privatization of property that is now being managed under the pseudonyms of "Sofis" or "Media Holding."

Where does this leave the people whose trade union dues were collected for dozens of years at their place of employment? To whom should they complain? To Berov as well?

BCP Secretary Calls Parliament 'Illegal'

AU2108204193 Sofia BTA in English 1852 GMT 21 Aug 93

["Today"—BTA lead]

[Excerpt] Sofia, August 21 (BTA)—A delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture, headed by Minister of Agriculture Georgi Tanev, left for Hungary today to take part in the consultations to be held by the ministers of agriculture of the central and East European countries and the Commonwealth of Independent States from August 23 through August 25 on the initiative of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture. The consultations have been organized in cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organization-Europe.

Land distribution contracts have not been made only in 75 out of over 5,000 population centres in the country, Deputy Prime Minister Neycho Neev, cited by the BTA local correspondent, told a press conference in Razgrad (northeastern Bulgaria) late last night. In his opinion, this is a sign that the agrarian reform has been gathering speed. Deputy Prime Minister Neev said next week he was going to propose to the government to set up a bank consortium which would finance the transactions related to the privatization of several stock-breeding farms.

485 graduates of the oldest Bulgarian military school, the Vasil Levski Higher Military School in Veliko Turnovo (northern Bulgaria) were promoted to the rank of officers, BTA learned from its local correspondent. The participants in the ceremony listened to the address sent by President Zhelyu Zhelev, commander of the Bulgarian Armed Forces. Both the state and the public are indebted to the Armed Forces, the address points out. The promotion of graduates of the Panayot Volov Artillery and Air-Defence Military School in Shumen (northeastern Bulgaria) also took place today. 209 cadets of the Higher Air Force School in Dolna Mitropoliya (northern Bulgaria) were promoted today too. The graduates of the Khristo Botev School for Officers of the Reserve in Pleven (northern Bulgaria) got their sergeant-major promotion, the local BTA correspondent reported. The graduates of the Military School of Engineering and Construction in Sofia were promoted as well.

"The incumbent parliament is illegal, unconstitutional and illegitimate, because the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) usurped the red ballot papers and deceived the sympathizers of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) into voting with them," it is said in an address by Vladimir Spasov, first secretary of the BCP Central Committee, to the Constitutional Court and the president received at BTA. The address insists on parliament dissolving itself, on the president appointing a caretaker cabinet and on setting the date for new general elections.

A meeting of the Federal Council of the Kingdom of Bulgaria Federation, presided by Federation Secretary Khristo Kurtev, took place in Dobrich (northeastern Bulgaria) today. The participants decided to hold a national political conference in Veliko Turnovo on September 12, which would develop theoretically the "debt to the idea which monarchists entertain." [passage omitted]

Minister Opposes Issuing Arms to Citizens

AU2008193193 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] In contrast to Sofia's Mayor Aleksandur Yanchulev, Interior Minister Viktor Mikhaylov believes that many weapons have been handed out and that they should be collected. Yanchulev's dreams of becoming the chief crime-fighter are not serious, Mikhaylov said at today's news conference, when asked about the Sofia mayor's proposal that weapons should be freely handed out to citizens.

The reasons given by the minister for his view were, and I quote, that, in this way, we will return to the days of the bashi-bazouks [irregular Turkish troops of 18th and 19th centuries, notorious for their cruelty], or will end up with the situation that exists in Lebanon. Nonetheless, Mikhaylov did not rule out the possibility of organizing voluntary detachments in support of the police, according to the practice followed in all civilized states.

Socialist Leader Videnov on Crime, Serbian Ties

AU2408100693 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 20 Aug 93 p 3

[Interview with Zhan Videnov, "Bulgarian Socialist Party leader," by Sonya Angelova; place and date not given: "Difficult Fall and Winter Lie Ahead, but Socialists Will Not Use This for Political Profit"]

[Text] [Angelova] Why is it that the scandal around the Kremikovtsi plant developed somewhat surprisingly at the peak of the summer vacation?

[Videnov] From the government experts' report I have learned that the issue in question is the planned elimination of a huge enterprise, which will result in large profits for certain companies that are associated with each other. The government must deal with the issue, because otherwise the losses for our country will be huge.

[Angelova] There has been much talk recently about the economic groups that are dividing up the country's economy among themselves, but people fail to comment on the fact that those groups would not have been able to penetrate economic life so deeply without a strong parliamentary lobby.

[Videnov] Obviously, there is a parliamentary lobby. However, their relations with the executive power and the suspicious passiveness of the judicial system are much more dangerous. There is undoubtedly a case of corruption in the government, and the cabinet was right in attempting, at least in Kremikovtsi, to fully clarify things with one of the groups. The strangest development was that the trade unions opposed this. Why does [Podkrepa Labor Confederation leader] Dr. Trenchev speak about some struggle against the "red companies," and "Interstil?" Let him first explain his own interests in the case, and the coincidence of those interests with the interests of "Multigroup."

[Angelova] The prime minister recently listed many arguments to support his claim that there is an action to topple the government. What is the most serious argument in your opinion?

[Videnov] I do not think that there is a plot to topple the government at present. The very difficult fall and winter that lie ahead will be utilized for this purpose. The responsibilities are especially heavy, while Bulgaria is full of irresponsible politicians who will try to gain from the drama of the almost hopeless struggle against the crisis. The strongest argument for toppling the cabinet will certainly be related to restructuring industry and the progress of the agrarian reform, and to the categorical demand of the public that the judicial system cope with the new crime, something it stubbornly refuses to do.

[Angelova] Is someone today working against this new crime or are those who claim that everything is allowed right?

[Videnov] I hope very much that at least something is being done at the National Security Service, and at the investigation and prosecutor's authorities. I have been informed about the many ambitious plans and large-scale goals of the departments, but so far the result has been null.

[Angelova] If you admit, however, that there is corruption in our government, what makes you think that precisely those organs are immune to corruption?

[Videnov] Every society strives to create maximum guarantees of incorruptibility, above all in the judicial system. In Bulgaria the guarantees in this sphere are the smallest. We allowed this system to consolidate on a political foundation and relieved it of the most important control of impartiality and incorruptibility. This is the greatest danger for our society. No matter what it costs, we will adopt the bill on the independent judiciary in parliament by the fall, and will make an effort to apply this law to all jurists. We will devote at least a month if not a season to this matter. If the judiciary does not take up the struggle against crime, we will demand far-reaching changes in the system.

[Angelova] The Romanian strikes posed the issue of the essence of the Yugoembargo and its strict application by Bulgaria. Was this not a better reason to convene parliament for an extraordinary session?

[Videnov] The idea of resolving the problems by a transit corridor through Serbia is a good and possible one. Bulgaria must apply all the pressure it is capably of generating in order to obtain this corridor. No special parliamentary decision is necessary. The only thing needed is unity of action on the part of the government, the Presidency, and parliamentary forces, and public opinion, as well as the mobilization of our friends abroad. I think the president could do more. With his international authority he could seek support abroad for the Bulgarian cause.

[Angelova] How do you assess our relations with Serbia? Our common border is with Serbia and not with the Sanctions' Committee.

[Videnov] I do not think that our relations have deteriorated finally and irrevocably. When the situation calms down Serbia will not hinder the activation of relations between the two countries. To say that they would be correct never to forgive us would be a call on the part of Bulgaria to resolve the Serbian problems by force, something both the president and the former government

unfortunately did out of purely ideological considerations. Serbia also would not forgive us for any interference in military activities aimed against the territory of former Yugoslavia. Unfortunately, at present our most active contacts with Serbia are on the party level. However, there is no obstacle to maintaining more intensive relations on an interstate basis. Nevertheless, I think that everything must begin not by a meeting of the prime ministers, but by meetings of public figures, deputies, and even journalists. What we need now is mutual confidence and a friendly feeling, which could guarantee our future relations. It is already crystal clear that there are no innocent sides in the terrible war in former Yugoslavia. This war cannot be stopped by crushing one state.

[Angelova] You do not believe the government will fall in the autumn. The crisis is exacerbating daily, but the impression has been created that the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] is awaiting for the most difficult stage of the crisis to pass in order to interfere more actively.

[Videnov] The basic problems this fall and winter will really be of an economic character. However, we would not like to gain political dividends from this gravest stage of the crisis. We cannot be tempted by such dividends. We must bear our share of responsibility for governing the country. We are preparing intensively for the new political season precisely in the economic and social spheres. In September we will request an official assessment of the progress of agrarian reform. We cannot wait any longer. The basic part of the land must be returned to its owners. At the beginning of the month we will present our position on the mass privatization plans and restructuring of the economy. The illusions are behind us and society will agree to any reasonable solution, providing someone proposes one. The people also must gain new faith in legality, justice, and retribution. The present legal nihilism will annihilate us as a nation within a few years.

Refugees' Conditions in Odessa, Crimea Viewed

AU2308170093 Sofia BTA in English 1521 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 23 (BTA)—According to official statistics, of the 17,929 Crimean Bulgarians resettled to Soviet Central Asia in 1944, 1,372 have so far returned to the peninsula, but the actual number of returnees is about 2,000, said National Assembly expert Rumen Metodiev, elaborating at a news conference today on the results of his visit to Odessa and Crimea for an inquiry into the condition of ethnic Bulgarian refugees from Central Asia.

Most of the Bulgarian refugees are unemployed and live in extreme hardship. There are plans to move back another 16,950 ethnic Bulgarians by the year 2000, Mr. Metodiev said. Nine thousand of them have already applied for a resettlement to Crimea because of the ethnic strife in the Muslim republics.

According to 1991 statistics, 232,600 Bulgarians live in Ukraine. The problems which ethnic Bulgarians encounter in that country stem from its own financial straits rather than from an assimilatory government policy, he said. Despit'uasia [as received] live in tent camps, Mr. Metodiev observed that they are accommodated in hostels which offer "extremely miserable conditions indeed." According to a report in the DUMA daily, cornered by hyperinflation, the Ukrainian Government will be unable to secure the construction of 200 houses earmarked for Crimean Bulgarian returnees.

Havel Address Marks 1968 Invasion Anniversary

AU2308155393 Prague CTK in English 1656 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Prague, August 20 (CTK)—Following is the full text of Czech President Vaclav Havel's radio and TV address on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the August 21, 1968, invasion of Czechoslovakia by its fellow members of the Warsaw Pact.

My fellow citizens:

The fundamental break with communism which our society decided upon and which has been recently embodied even in legislation, has resulted quite understandably in the fact that the attention being paid to the events of 1968 in Czechoslovakia is restricted today mainly to criticisms of the half-hearted and self-contradictory program and policies of the reform communist leadership of the time. For that reason, it will not hurt us to be reminded, on this 25th anniversary of the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the armies of the Warsaw Pact, of some additional elements and dimensions of those events.

Above all, it must be remembered that the personal and conceptual changes which occurred early in 1968 in the leadership of the Communist Party and the country were not simply some coup among top party people, nor were they just the result of ever increasing pressure by reform communists working at the time throughout the structures of power. This course of events was, in its deepest sense, the result of a deepening chasm between the true opinion and will of society on the one hand and official political ideology and practice on the other, of a social crisis which was becoming increasingly pronounced and of ever more distinct public yearning for change. It is no wonder, then, that our society began to fill up the growing space of freedom created by the policies of the so-called post-January leadership very rapidly and often with an energy and consistency that took the state leadership by surprise and often was not particularly welcomed. Newspapers began to print the truth, people gathered in independent organizations and clubs, and the free exercise of citizenship and free political thinking began to awaken and develop.

Due to the efforts of citizens of the most divergent political orientations, Czechoslovakia thus became an island of freedom and relatively dignified living in the middle of the gloomy gray ocean of the Brezhnev Soviet bloc, earning itself great respect around the world. The Prague Spring became for many people of both East and West a great—and sometimes, given the true state of affairs, disproportionate—source of hope and inspiration. For the West it was a report that not only hopelessly manipulated slaves lived beneath the communist overlordship, but that there is a great, if repressed, creative potential here requiring little in order to arise and begin to transform itself into democratic institutions and a democratic public consciousness. In the East, it became a call of inspiration for all forces of opposition and defiance.

A clear conception of our country's history is one of the basic conditions for building genuinely democratic self-awareness in our society, and for this reason it makes sense to point out as well the extent of those events which some of us—immersed in the current atmosphere—would rather forget or relegate to obscurity.

When foreign troops invaded our country on the night of the 20th to the 21st of August, 1968, and abducted its political representatives, something happened for which a parallel would be difficult to find in modern history. Within several hours our society began to unite unexpectedly in a peaceful and dignified demonstration in defense of the independence of the state and the civic freedoms that had been achieved. Against an enormous army armed to the teeth stood essentially an entire civilian population, which had developed with admirable intelligence thousands of methods for confronting power non-violently, for thwarting its intentions and rendering it for all practical purposes ineffective. Spirit will prevail over brute force read one of the countless banners which sprouted almost overnight on the streets of our cities. The mass media, by the most varied and sometimes almost unbelievable methods, outwitted the occupiers and moved and integrated the entire society to cunning resistance against the powerful will of the aggressors and some of their helpers at the time. The country simply refused to pay attention to the occupation.

This situation, which undoubtedly belongs to the critical life experiences of an entire generation, did not endure, nor in the given state of affairs could it endure. Nevertheless, the great, admirable and genuinely brave uprising of our society at the time remains living proof of the beneficent powers that lie dormant in it. If only a part of those beneficent powers, which are in each of us, could turn itself to the service of the common cause. The demanding tasks which the far-reaching transformation of our society and the creation of a democratic state place before us are the cultivation of precisely those good qualities which we have proven ourselves able to uncover and so magnificently unleash even in such limiting circumstances as August 1968 or November 1989. The better we cultivate these good qualities, the more easily we will make ourselves equal to the great tasks of our time.

ODA Rejects Klaus' Claim on Prosecutor Candidate

AU2308132493 Prague CTK in English 1232 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 19 (CTK)—Chairman of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) Vaclav Klaus is mistaken when he claims that Jiri Setina was a candidate of the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA) for the post of Czech prosecutor general, ODA Chairman Jan Kalvoda said today.

The ODA did not even propose Setina for the post. All coalition parties agreed on Jiri Setina, he added.

On Wednesday [18 August], Klaus said that his party had nothing to do with the appointment of Setina as prosecutor general, and added that it was two ODS

government coalition partners—the ODA and the Christian Democratic Party (KDS)—who had nominated Setina for the post, not the ODS.

Setina has come under strong attack from the Left Bloc parliamentary group as well as the ODS's third government coalition partner, the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party, who have called for his dismissal.

The dismissal has been urged in connection with Setina's alleged acquiring a state flat after he had provided false and misleading information to Prague housing authorities.

Kalvoda called it unsuitable to point out who of the coalition partners proposed a candidate for a public post if he or she fails in it.

Setina was appointed Czech prosecutor general in September 17, 1992, by the Czech National Council as the Czech parliament was called then.

KSCM's Grebenicek Denies Party 'Disintegrating'

AU2308132193 Prague CTK in English 1155 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 19 (CTK)—There is a single communist party in the Czech Republic—the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM), its chairman Miroslav Grebenicek said today dismissing press information that the KSCM was disintegrating.

The Democratic Left Party (SDL) has clearly said it was a non-communist party, and the LB [Left Bloc] does not want to be identified with the KSCM either, he added.

Wishful thinking is behind allegations about the KSCM's disintegration, the aim of which is to frighten KSCM members and supporters, Grebenicek said.

The SDL has been formed by former reformers from the KSCM, who decided to leave the party when its 3rd conference in June refused to change the party's name and to turn it into a modern left-orientated one.

The LB has been established by people wishing the left-leaning forces to be united.

If the pronouncements are made by representatives of left-orientated parties as well, they should realise that this does not benefit the society. Even though the parties may thus get closer to the coalition, they should not remember that the anticommunist campaign did not benefit them in the past elections and it will not benefit them in future either, Grebenicek said.

On Tuesday [17 August], Chairman of the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) Milos Zeman said that his party considered the existence of three communist parties in the Czech Republic as its own success.

First Half of Year Economic Statistics Released

AU2008194293 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 19 Aug 93 pp 1, 3

[Article by Engineer Ladislav Vana, Czech Statistical Office: "Both Positive and Negative Trends; Czech Republic Economic Results in the First Half of 1993"]

[Text] Partial results published by the Czech Statistical Office [CSU] allow a relatively comprehensive characterization of the basic economic development trends in the first half of the year. According to the first draft estimate released by the CSU, the level of gross domestic product in real prices should be somewhere between 98.7 and 99.5 percent of the first half of 1992.

The first half of the year can be characterized as relatively stable from the viewpoint of individual development of the national economy's sectors and branches. Trends from the first quarter of the year, both positive and problematic ones, persisted and manifested themselves also later in the year. Positive features include the relative stability of consumer and producer prices; favorable results in the balance of payments accompanied by growth in the Czech National Bank's foreign exchange reserves; surplus in the foreign trade balance; surplus in the state budget; gradual recovery in the construction industry, which has started to eliminate the shortfall from the beginning of the year; the relatively stable dynamism of retail sales, which show a certain tendency toward growth even in physical volume; growth of private savings; and so forth. Problems persist in industry, where no recovery of output has taken place as yet. The results for May and June also point to an exacerbating shortfall in all types of transportation; this shortfall applies to all volume indicators. Another broadly discussed problem concerns the significant rise in gross monthly nominal wages, particularly in view of the fact that it was not matched by a corresponding development in labor productivity. The first results for June in this sphere point to a considerable acceleration of the growth of wages toward the end of the first half of the year. In agriculture, the harvest of cereal crops is expected to fall short of the 1992 harvest volume. The downward trend in the unemployment rate continued and toward the end of the first half of the year began to stagnate.

Economy of the Czech Republic

First Half of 1993, Compared With First Half of 1992	
Industrial production	- 4.7 percent
Construction industry output	- 5.2 percent
Railroad loading	- 8.7 percent
Volume of freight in public road transportation	- 20.4 percent
Retail sales in comparable prices	+ 4.5 percent
Imports (excluding Slovak Republic)	+ 16.1 percent

Economy of the Czech Republic (Continued)	
First Half of 1993, Compared With First Half of 1992	
Exports (excluding Slovak Republic)	+ 7.8 percent
Consumer prices	+ 21.8 percent
Nominal cash earnings of the population	+ 25.8 percent
Completed housing units	+ 37.2 percent
Housing starts	+ 8.8 percent

Industry

June production results (including estimated results of organizations with fewer than 25 employees and of individual entrepreneurs entered and not entered on the company register) show continuation of the downward trend, compared with last year. June's production decline, compared with June 1992, was 5.0 percent and accounted for a 0.2 percent increase in the production shortfall since the beginning of the year, compared with results for the January-May period, to 4.7 percent.

A high growth rate (compared with 1992) is being recorded in small organizations with fewer than 100 employees and in the production of individual entrepreneurs. These two categories accounted, however, for only about 13 percent of total production volume in the first half of the year. Larger organizations, which still account for the bulk of production volume, all report a significant decline in output compared with last year. In organizations with 1,000 to 1,499 employees and 3,000 to 3,999 employees the decline represented more than 10 percent.

Enterprises with 25 and more employees, which account for about 90 percent of total industrial output, reported a 6.8 percent decline of production in the first half of the year, compared with the same period in 1992. The production of machinery and appliances, the paper and printing industry and publishing activity, the wood-processing industry, mining for non-energy raw materials and extraction of ores and quarry stone, in particular, have recorded progress below the republic's average. Only producers of leather and leather goods, rubber goods, and products made of plastic materials increased their output compared to 1992.

Priority to export production was evident throughout the first half of the year. While the growth index for production and total sales in current prices was approximately 103 percent, export sales increased more than 20 percent over the same period.

The number of employees in industrial organizations with 25 or more employees dropped 6.3 percent in the first half of the year, compared with the same period in 1992. Average monthly gross wages increased 24.9 percent, to 5,691 Czech korunas [Kc]. In June alone, the growth of average wages represented more than 35 percent. Real wages went up 2.6 percent in the first half of the year, compared with the first half of 1992. Labor productivity per employee calculated on the basis of production of goods exceeded the first half of 1992 by less than 10 percent, using current prices. It dropped 0.5 percent according to price indexes.

Construction

Construction output indicates a gradual recovery since April. In the second quarter of the year construction output was 0.8 percent higher than in the same period a year ago. In the entire second half of the year, the volume of construction output amounted to 50.6 billion korunas, which was 5.2 percent below last year's figures. The share of the private sector in the total construction output reached 60.2 percent in the first half of the year and was 11.4 percent higher than in the first half of 1992.

Construction firms with 25 or more employees carried out 8.1 percent less building work in the first six months of the year than in the same period last year, with construction work performed abroad dropping 21.7 percent. However, construction work abroad represented only 3.8 percent of total construction.

Construction work effected by companies with 25 and more employees represented about three quarters of total construction output on the territory of the Czech Republic. The greatest growth rate (over 30 percent) is reported by companies with 25 to 100 employees. Construction growth by smaller companies and individual entrepreneurs is estimated to have been substantially smaller (4.2 percent). Construction firms with more than 400 employees, on the other hand, report a decline of more than 13 percent.

Construction companies with 25 or more employees employed a total of 215,900 persons in the first half of the year, which was 1.9 percent more than in the same period a year ago. Average monthly gross nominal wages reached Kc6,180 and were 31.5 percent higher than in the same period last year. The increase in real wages represented 8.1 percent. Labor productivity per employee, calculated on the basis of output, increased 11.1 percent in current prices. Using index prices, it dropped about 10 percent.

Transportation

The volume of freight in public road transportation, including private carriers, was 20.4 percent lower than in the first half of last year and performance in terms of tonne-kilometers was 12.4 percent lower. The decline in freight volume and, more significantly, the decline in performance in terms of tonne-kilometers, was concentrated throughout the first half of the year in domestic transportation. International truck transport volume fell 6.1 percent compared to the first half of 1992 but performance in terms of tonne-kilometers increased 17.3 percent, because of an increase in the haulage distance.

A total of 661.1 million passengers were carried by public bus transport in the first half of the year, 16.4 percent fewer than in the same period a year ago.

Railroad freight transport remained at the same level in June as in May, when it hit its lowest point this year. This exacerbated the drop in railroad freight transport in the first half of the year, which fell 8.7 percent short of the first half of 1992.

The volume of river-borne freight since the beginning of the year dropped 10 percent compared with the first half of last year.

Average monthly gross wages amounted to Kc5,315 in the first half of the year, a 28.9 percent nominal growth compared with the same period a year ago. The growth in real wages was 5.8 percent.

Agriculture

According to an operational report [operativni zprava] of 15 July on the prognosis of the harvest of selected crops, a harvest of 6.4 million tonnes of cereal crops is expected this year, which would be 1.5 percent below last year's production. Whereas the harvest of wheat and barley is expected to fall short of last year's results, a higher harvest volume is expected for rye and oats. The per hectare yield of cereal crops is estimated at 4.04 tonnes, compared with last year's 4.17 tonnes. The per hectare yields of all main cereal crops are expected to fall short of the 1992 yields. Wheat has an estimated share of over 50 percent of total cereal crop production, barley a 40 percent share, and oats and rye each have a share of approximately 3.5 percent.

The harvest of early potatoes is expected to exceed last year's harvest by 50,000 tonnes, due to both a larger area sown with early potatoes and improved per hectare yields.

As for the procurement of farm products from primary producers (including an estimate for the private sector), procurement of slaughter pigs was 11.9 percent higher than in the first half of 1992; the procurement of eggs was 19.5 percent higher. The procurement of cattle for slaughter, on the other hand, was 3.9 percent lower, procurement of milk 11.2 percent lower, and procurement of poultry for slaughter 21.0 percent lower.

Domestic Trade

The June retail sales volume in current prices was 34.3 percent higher than in June 1992; physical volume of retail sales was 12.1 percent higher.

The total volume of retail sales in the first half of the year is estimated to amount to Kc197.7 billion. Compared with the first half of 1992, the volume of retail sales was 25 percent higher in current prices and 4.5 percent higher in index prices. The physical volume of retail sales increased, first and foremost, in small companies with fewer than 25 employees (by 28.2 percent) and in the stores of private entrepreneurs not entered on the company register (by 15.0 percent). Retail sales volume in companies with 25 and more employees dropped 10.6 percent.

The number of employees in retail firms with 25 and more employees declined by 2.7 percent in the first half of the year, compared with the first half of 1992. Average nominal gross monthly wages in retailing amounted to Kc4,395, 21.5 percent higher than in the first half of 1992. Real wages in retailing were 0.2 percent lower.

Foreign Trade

The total foreign trade turnover in the first half of the year amounted to Kc321.8 billion, of which foreign trade turnover apart from the Slovak Republic amounted to Kc258.5 billion, an increase of 8.3 percent against the first half of 1992. The balance of trade showed a surplus of Kc0.9 billion. Without trade with the Slovak Republic, the balance of trade would have shown a deficit of Kc0.5 billion.

Imports (separate from the Slovak Republic) grew 16.1 percent in the first half of the year, compared with the first half of 1992. Imports from all nations went up, with the exception of imports from republics of the former USSR. The fastest import growth was registered from countries with a system of state-controlled trade (a sevenfold increase) and from states with advanced market economies (29.2 percent). The FRG had the greatest share of Czech Republic imports, followed by republics of the former USSR, Austria, Italy, and the United States.

Exports (separate from the Slovak Republic) went up 7.8 percent. Only exports to republics of the former Soviet Union and to European states with transitional economies (separate from the republics of the former Soviet Union) declined. The fastest rate of growth (11.8 percent) was recorded in exports to EC states. The FRG also had the largest share of Czech Republic exports, followed by Austria, the republics of the former USSR, Italy, and China.

Prices

The results of a consumer prices analysis in June point to their continuing relative stability. A June increase of 0.4 percent compared to May—together with the growth rate in May—was the lowest this year. A change occurred in the progression of food prices when, after a three-month-long regular slight decline, the price level increased by 0.2 percent compared to May.

Compared to the first six months of 1992, consumer prices have increased by an average of 21.8 percent this year.

Production costs in industry increased by just 0.2 percent in June compared to March. A more significant deviation from the May price level was recorded only in leather production and leather products (an increase of 0.7 percent), vehicle production (an increase of 0.6 percent), and in chemical products and chemical fibers (a decline of 0.5 percent).

Producers' prices in industry increased by 9.3 percent compared to December. Price increases were recorded in all branches; they were relatively higher for coking and oil refining. The only exception was the paper and printing industry where prices fell by roughly 3.0 percent compared to 1992.

According to the institute's estimate, rationalization in construction meant that in June—compared to May—construction costs increased by 0.3 percent and prices for the materials and products used in construction increased by 0.2 percent. The quite considerable difference between construction cost increases and cost adjustments for materials and products used in construction becomes obvious from an analysis of data monitored over a longer time period.

In June, agricultural product prices were 1.8 percent higher than in June 1992, vegetable prices increased by an average of 7.9 percent and the prices for animal products increased by 0.9 percent. Prices fell in June compared to May. However, this is mainly due to seasonal influences.

The Population's Income and Expenditure

The population's nominal income rose by 36.8 percent in June compared to 1992; expenditure rose by 39.0 percent. As a consequence of higher income, the population could lay aside Kc3.2 billion in unfulfilled purchasing power in June. These savings were made exclusively in the form of cash.

The population's nominal income has increased by 25.8 percent, that is, roughly Kc57 billion since the beginning of the year compared to last year. Salaries increased by 23.9 percent and transfer payments increased by 29.4 percent. If the annual increase in the cost of living is taken into consideration, real incomes rose by approximately 3.0 percent compared to the first half of 1992.

The population's realized income (expenditure) increased by 29.4 percent, that is, by some Kc61 billion; purchases accounted for 35.1 percent of this, services for 30.4 percent, and other expenditures for 17.5 percent.

The increase in unrealized purchasing power during the first half of the year amounted to Kc10.9 billion. Due to the currency separation on 8 February 1993, the population's shift from ready money to savings lasted until the end of June. While deposits increased by Kc22.5 billion during the first six months of the year, the amount of ready money kept by the population fell by Kc11.5 billion.

People's koruna deposits at the end of June amounted to Kc261.8 billion; foreign currency deposits amounted to Kc42.0 billion.

Unemployment

The number of job seekers registered at labor offices rose in June and reached 138,581 by the end of the month. In June 37,417 new job seekers were registered; 28,972 people were removed from the unemployment register—20,658 of them had found jobs. Women account for 58.8 percent of the overall number of registered unemployed.

There were 74,000 vacancies at the end of June, 400 fewer than at the end of the previous month. The overall number of unplaced job seekers collecting benefits fell to 62,616 compared to May.

The unemployment rate rose to 2.63 percent at the end of June and the regional differences increased. The unemployment rate was under 1.0 percent in Prague, Prague-East, Prague-West, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Plzen-South, Jablonec nad Nisou, and Semily. It was more than 5.0 percent in Tachov, Louny, Trebic, Znojmo, Bruntal, Karvina, Novy Jicin, and Vsetin.

State Budget Through 31 July 1993

According to the bank data on treasury performance with respect to the state budget, the state budget administration reported an identical surplus of Kc5.6 billion at the end of June and end of July.

The state budget surplus was, above all, the result of the temporary advance of accounts receivable over accounts payable. A significant part of the revenues is the incoming revenues from 1992 (a total of Kc19.72 billion). These revenues have capped and are no longer increasing; at the end of July, they accounted for 9.6 percent of total revenues. As expected, the tax revenues in the framework of the new taxation system—and the value added tax and income tax revenues in particular—started to climb in February. As a result of the increased volume in imported goods, the state budget treasury has collected Kc8.59 million from customs, which represents 114.6 percent of the expected customs revenue for the year. Social security premium payments reached Kc56.75 billion, or 58.4 percent of the annual plan.

Overall Czech Republic state budget expenditures at the end of July 1993 amounted to Kc199.28 billion, i.e., 58.2 percent of the annual plan. Heat subsidies are already well beyond the anticipated level of budgeted expenditures, and are likely to surpass the planned amount. On the other hand, capital expenditures have not been overly drawn upon, which is not surprising at the beginning of the year as these expenditures are usually covered at the end of the year.

Local budgets subsidies in the amount of Kc12.51 billion account for 73.6 percent of the annual budget. The local organizations were provided funds ahead of time so as to help them settle problems arising from fluctuations in their own revenues in the first half of the year as the new taxation system was introduced.

Housing Construction

In the first half of 1993, 15,473 housing units were completed, i.e., 37.2 percent more than in the same period of 1992. The number of completed units was

greater in all areas of construction (except for cooperatives). The construction of single-family homes registered the highest growth—as an aftermath of the high increase in housing starts (single-family homes) in 1989 and 1990 generated by loans offered to young couples during that period.

The number of housing starts reached 3,605 in the first half of 1993 and was 8.9 percent higher than in the first half of 1992. Starts include 190 community housing units, 230 cooperative units, 39 company units, and 3,146 housing units. The year 1993 is the third year with a very low number of housing starts (85 percent lower on average than in 1986-1990).

On 30 June 1993, there were 84,557 unfinished housing units, of which 57,794 were single family homes.

The first results for July indicate certain changes in trends so far, characteristic for the first six months. That is, above all, some acceleration of the growth in production prices and construction prices, which apparently were projected in a faster rise of consumer prices (of industrial goods), and a quite substantial increase in the number of job seekers (approximately 10,000 people) which brought up the unemployment rate by 0.2 percent to 2.8 percent.

Czechs in South Africa Wish To Return Home

AU2308155093 Prague CTK in English 2048 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Prague, August 20 (CTK)—Czech Transport Minister Jan Strasky told CTK today that some one-third of Czech expatriates living in South Africa are very seriously considering returning to the Czech Republic.

During his visit to this country on August 13-16, Strasky met in Pretoria with several dozen expatriates. A considerable part of those are either very seriously considering returning home or have already definitively decided to, Strasky said.

Strasky said that Czech expatriates in South Africa were not organized and that is why it is not known how many of them live there. He guessed the number at between three and eight thousand.

Meciar Not To Seek Russian Apology for 1968 Invasion

AU2008115793 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 19 Aug 93 p 12

[Reprint of part of an interview with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by unidentified correspondent from SME No. 181; place and date not given: "Everybody Is Going His Own Way"]

[Text] According to Prime Minister Meciar, an apology from Russia for [the invasion of Czechoslovakia in] 1968 is out of the question because the Russian Parliament is unable to ratify it. The daily SME, No. 181, asked him the following:

[SME] You said that coordination with the Visegrad group [Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland] is important for Slovak foreign policy. On the other hand, in the context of the preparation of the Russian-Slovak Treaty, you said that an apology from Russia is out of the question because the Russian Parliament would not adopt it. Other Visegrad countries, however, are unequivocally demanding a settlement of the past in their draft treaties with Russia—the year 1956 in Hungary, for instance, or the massacre of Polish officers in the Katyn woods, and, last but not least, even the Czech Republic is insisting on an apology from Russia for 1968.

[Meciar] As far as I know, Gorbachev has already apologized for the Katyn massacre, and the same happened in the case of the 1956 events in Hungary. Regarding 1968, the Czech side has not asked us to coordinate our policies in this respect. Hence, as long as they do not find it appropriate to seek our political support, and want to go their own way, I do not see any reason for trying to prevent them from doing so.

[SME] All this, however, pertains to the relations between the USSR and the Visegrad states. The issue we are dealing with now is that of new treaties between Russia as a successor of the USSR and the countries of the Visegrad group—is that so?

[Meciar] Yes, I have presented the stand of the Slovak side, and—to date—no other state of the Visegrad group has asked for a consultation, or a change in the opinion or stand. Everybody is going his own way.

MOS Supports Mayor in Language Sign Dispute

AU2408110793 Prague CTK in English 1451 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Bratislava August 19 (CTK)—The Hungarian Civic Party (MOS) supports the mayor of the South Slovakian village of Marcelova, Laszlo Sooky, who on August 11 ordered a blockade of the roads to protest the removal of Hungarian road signs in the region, MOS Chairman Laszlo Nagy told journalists today.

He characterised Sooky's behaviour as an act of civic disobedience to which he resorted only after he had exhausted all legal possibilities to exercise the right of his village to Hungarian signs. The blockade followed an August 3 order by Slovak Transport Minister Roman Hofbauer for the substitution of bilingual road signs by Slovak-only signs, even in ethnically mixed communities.

Nagy emphasised that his party was ready to provide the mayor of Marcelova legal assistance in case of repression against him. He said the mayor had acted in accordance with the law, which was violated by state authorities. The whole matter represents an attempt to test the patience of not only Hungarians living in southern Slovakia, but also of the Council of Europe. Its goal is to divert attention from Slovakia's economic problems.

Nagy also mentioned the draft Slovak-Russian treaty discussed by the Slovak parliament last week. He said it was strange that although Slovakia did not have treaties with neighbouring states, its representatives were concentrating their attention on the treaty with Russia. If it does not have political undertones, then why not conclude treaties with these countries first? he asked. He said that he had addressed a letter to chairmen of Slovak parliamentary and non-parliamentary parties asking them to take all steps to preserve Slovakia's sovereignty, which would be threatened in case the treaty with Russia is signed in its present version.

Hungarian Justice, Life Party Issues Progam

AU2308194993 Budapest PESTI HIRLAP in Hungarian 21 Aug 93 p 4

[Correspondent's report: "The Ideas of the Hungarian Justice Party—Joint Program, Joint (Hungarian) Way"]

[Text] The Hungarian Way Circles Movement and the Hungarian Justice and Life Party have jointly issued an eight-point program that they wish to implement through legal means, and, to do this, they seek the Hungarian nation's support because, in their view, this is the only way they will be able to implement the change of the system. In its first part, the program demands order, justice, and equality of opportunity in employment, the acquisition of property, and the expression of opinion. It demands order and justice to suppress corruption, and promote equality of opportunity in starting enterprises and gaining access to loans. It wants a nation-building state that cares for all its decent citizens, and for this reason, it wants to clean up all government offices, national institutions, and authorities so that the communist and corrupt networks will not be able to operate anywhere.

What else does the program of the Hungarian Way Circles Movement and the Hungarian Justice and Life Party want? Among other things, public education with a Hungarian spirit and, to implement this, trained and further-trained teachers who fulfill the modern requirements and who are accordingly rewarded both financially and morally. All men of the people must have a chance to acquire the highest level of education, and, at the same time, it is also necessary to operate elite schools where the real national elite of the 21st century's leaders would be trained.

They demand support for the church schools. In their view, in the interest of research and development, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences with its Soviet-style power of authority, should be replaced by an organization corresponding to Hungarian traditions which consists of real authoritative figures.

So that the Hungarian people can feel at home in their own homeland, they must be protected from undesirable immigration and from international crime syndicates. Hungary's foreign policy must correspond to this. In addition to this, our foreign policy must continue to have as its goal to join the organizations of developed, mainly European states, and for this reason, at the talks with the EC, a general agreement should include the schedule for our membership and domestic economy.

The nation-building state should take measures to reduce the speed of the population's decline and to achieve this, it should reintroduce and introduce the institution of full-time motherhood! A "family-friendly" new and just tax system should also serve the cause of the family. For this reason, the movement and the party demand the abolition of the current senseless pressure of taxation that destroys many people. At the same time, the law should use all its rigor to punish those who evade taxation or who hide their tax liability.

"Provision of Justice!" This is what the fourth premise of the program states, and then it continues by saying that we must come to terms with the fact that this is not being done. In the interest of restoring society's moral values, crimes have to be exposed and the criminals have to be called to account. It is also necessary quickly and justly to complete the compensation process, bearing in mind that those deprived in the previous era cannot have advantages over those people deprived in another way at another time.

The fifth section, dealing with the economy, emphasizes it cannot possibly be restored without a review of the country's external debt burden and changing the speed of repayment. In connection with this, the reform of state finances cannot be delayed and it is necessary to increase the support for agriculture. The basic principle is that Hungarian land is not for sale because the country belongs to those who own the land. For this reason, foreigners can and must be limited in the acquisition of property to owning land required by new development and real estate needed by enterprises. Small-scale farmers and the agricultural intelligentsia who wish to start enterprises should be granted the conditions of modern agriculture.

That the Hungarian Way and the Hungarian Justice and Life Party are thinking in terms of the whole nation, and support for the disadvantaged regions is one of the basic tenets of this can be read in the last sections of the program. If we are thinking in terms of a nation-building state, then we need a new constitution. Nothing can stand above parliament, not even the Constitutional Court, and, therefore, the latter will have to be reelected and its status regulated.

"To implement our program we need a parliament consisting of deputies who are committed to the nation, but to achieve this we must defeat all those who have formed links in the background of the Alliance of Free Democrats, the Federation of Young Democrats, the Hungarian Socialist Party, and the Hungarian Democratic Forum, that has been deprived of its popular power, and those who serve the nomenclature of the old regime and hinder the changes to the system," the program finally states.

Statistical Office Issues Economic Figures

LD1908172693 Budapest MTI in English 1514 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Budapest, August 19 (MTI-Econews)—The Central Statistical Office (CSO) published its first half-year report on the performance of the Hungarian economy on Thursday.

Industrial production in the first half of this year grew by 2.4pc if seasonal effects are excluded, and by an unadjusted 1.6pc, compared to the same period of last year.

The seasonally corrected industrial production volume index decreased continuously from the middle of 1989 up to the end of 1991. Last year it remained at the December 1991 level but, since February, the index has been continuously up on last year.

All the main groups in the manufacturing sector, except food processing, have reported higher levels of production than in the first half of last year. The greatest increase was in the machine industry and in the manufacturing of building materials, both up 12pc. The sale of industrial products also exceeded last year's figure slightly, with a growth in domestic sales and a decrease in exports, the CSO report said.

Building construction in the first half of this year was down 10pc on the same period of last year. However the number of buildings begun, but not finished, has increased significantly while the number of new apartments built has also grown.

Agricultural production has been unfavourably affected by a reduction in cultivated land and in numbers of livestock. Cultivated land at the end of May was slightly down on last May, with uncultivated land growing to 9pc of arable land. The number of cattle had decreased by 18pc on the year before, while the number of pigs had decreased by 4pc. The number of chickens and sheep owned by companies and cooperatives dropped by one third. The amount of agricultural products sold decreased significantly, and state procurement decreased by 29pc.

Transport fared slightly worse than in the first half of last year. Domestic and foreign freight fell heavily, the latter by 39pc. Short and long-distance passenger journeys were also down.

Energy use was 0.6pc down in the first six months on the same period last year. There was an 0.5pc drop in industrial consumption, while consumption in the household and public sectors rose by 0.6pc over the first half of last year.

The slowing inflationary trend of the first half of last year has moderated over the last 12 months. During that period, producer price rises accelerated. In the first half of this year, domestic sales prices in industry grew by 12.9pc compared to 9.3pc in the same period last year. Prices in the building industry increased by 18.8pc (compared to 17pc), while agricultural procurement prices grew by 20.4pc (compared to 6pc). Consumer price inflation lessened in the first seven months of this year, from 23.6pc in the corresponding 1992 period, to 22.9pc.

The deficit in foreign trade dropped to HUF [Hungarian forints] 24.3bn in the first half of last year. However, as a result of a growth of 17pc in imports and a 19pc drop in exports, the trade deficit amounted to almost huf 180bn (more than usd 2bn) in the first six months of this year.

Retail sales volumes fell 3.6pc in the first half of this year, compared to the same period of last year.

Numbers of people employed continued to decrease, in the first six months and was 9pc down on the same period of last year. The largest drop in employment was in agriculture and mining.

The number of business enterprises grew further in the first six months. 2,093 joint ventures [JV] were established, slightly more than in the same period of last year. The average JV set up this year was smaller than in 1992. Foreign cash contributions to the initial capital of JVs declined to HUF 17bn from HUF 19.2bn.

The convertible current account was in deficit in all first four months, totalling USD 1.085m. The current account had been in surplus: USD 127m in 1990, USD 267m in 1991, and USD 324m last year.

The increase in Hungary's gross foreign debt in convertible currencies was larger than the increase in its foreign assets. As a result, net debt grew by USD 1.2bn, to USD 14.5bn from January to April this year.

The state budget deficit in the first half of this year was HUF 119bn, 10pc up on last year.

SLD Maintains Lead Over PSL, UD in Poll

WS2308085493 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 19 Aug 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Renata Wrobel: "Election Opinion Poll for RZECZPOSPOLITA; The Left and Peasants Lead"—last paragraph printed in box]

[Text]

Election preferences in percent

Party	24-25 July	14-15 August
Democratic Left Alliance [SLD]	16	17
Polish Peasant Party [PSL]	13	15
Democratic Union [UD]	14	14
Confederation for an Independent Poland [KPN]	7	10
Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms [BBWR]	10	7
Liberal-Democratic Congress [KLD]	5	6
Labor Union [UP]	6	6
Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarity"	7	5
"Fatherland"		5

SLD would be the strongest party in the new Parliament, leading over PSL and UD. The 5-percent threshold would be exceeded by 9 parties. However, one of them, "Fatherland," would not enter the Sejm; as a coalition, it must obtain at least 8 percent of votes to be able to take part in seat-sharing. Of the respondents, 64 percent declare that they want to vote. These are the results of an opinion poll conducted over the weekend for RZECZPOSPOLITA by the Sopot-based Public Opinion Research Institute.

The eight parties that exceeded the required percentage are going to collect 80 percent of votes. The remaining 20 percent of the "votes" will, in fact, be advantageous to the winners. In line with the d'Hont's system that has been accepted in the Electoral Law, the strongest parties have the most to gain. As a result, they (SLD, PSL, UD) would receive a greater percentage of seats than "votes" in our poll.

SLD has been leading opinion polls for a long time now; it was second, after UD, last November. It maintained that position the entire time, except for a short period in March. At the beginning of July, it took the lead in opinion polls. It has been steadily gaining supporters since May; at that time only 11 percent declared that they wanted to vote for SLD, whereas now that number has jumped to 17 percent.

The strongest position among peasant parties is occupied by PSL, lead by Waldemar Pawlak. Just like SLD, its voters are becoming more and more numerous. The party's activists are afraid, however, that their supporters may be mislead by the similar name of the Polish Peasant Party-Peasant Agreement [PSL-PL], which has drawn a lower number in the election list.

The UD, which is the only party so far that has been able to obtain 20-percent support in preelection polls, very respectable under Polish circumstances, is experiencing an election crisis. It is worth noting that UD already had 14-percent support in one of our opinion polls last fall. However, even then it did not fall into second place. We can merely speculate where former UD supporters are heading. Perhaps they are shifting toward the SLD (researchers always speculated that those who did not want to openly admit their support for SLD have most often declared support for UD, which was popular in mass media), or maybe for BBWR.

The latter, in comparison with an opinion poll taken at the end of July, has lost many of its supporters. Meanwhile, KPN has gained support over the past few months. Three parties—KLD, UP, and "Solidarity" are near the 5-percent limit. The "Fatherland" coalition (ZChN 'Christian-National Union,' PK 'Conservative Party,' PChD 'Party of Christian Democrats,' SLCh 'Peasant-Christian Party') has made a good start in our polls by receiving 5 percent, which is more than the Center Accord (2.5 percent) or Jan Olszewski's Coalition for the Republic (2 percent). Similar—near 2 percent—is the rating of "Self-Defense," X Party, and the Union for Real Politics.

Anything can happen; a lot depends on the final weeks of the election campaign, Sopot researches say.

Opinion poll conducted on 14 and 15 August; a representative sample of 1063 adults. Each respondent has 100 percent support to divide among several choices, that is, into the political parties appearing on their ballot, in addition to the "I will not vote" option.

BBWR Program Supports Wider Presidential Powers

AU2308195593 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 20 Aug 93 p 4

[Report by Robert Krasowski: "The BBWR Starts Off With 300 Million"]

[Text] The presidential Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms [BBWR] has promised 300 million zlotys worth of credits for everyone. In its election program, released yesterday, the BBWR calls for wider presidential powers, a six-year freeze on tax rates, and a liberal economic policy.

The BBWR, created on the president's initiative, has basically adopted the president's earlier slogan "300 million zlotys for everyone," but modified it to read

"300 million zlotys for every enterprising person." During yesterday's BBWR news conference, journalists heard that every adult Pole would receive a credit investment voucher worth 300 million zlotys made out in his name, and that with this voucher he would be able to acquire state property. This 300million-zloty credit would be repayable within 20 years, or else the property would be forfeited. The BBWR believes that several million Poles would be involved in the first stage of this type of privatization.

As far as political matters are concerned, the BBWR would like a presidential-parliamentary system. It also calls for greater judicial authority, including making Constitutional Tribunal verdicts unappealable. At present, the Sejm may overturn a Constitutional Tribunal ruling by a two-thirds majority.

In its economic program, the BBWR emerges as a supporter of liberal solutions. It advocates a private economy, one that is competitive and open to the world. Special emphasis is placed on limiting state intervention. At the same time, the BBWR wants to see domestic production supported and protected.

The BBWR suggests that key state posts be filled by open competition. "However, the incumbents in these posts must not be exposed to blackmail," said Andrzej Olechowski, economic adviser to the president and member of the BBWR Program Council. "With personnel vetting, we are not concerned with whether someone has been a secret agent, but whether he might be a target for blackmail.

"Our program is the product of talks and pacts between various circles," Olechowski continued. These pacts have been forged by representatives of various milieux that make up the BBWR—employers, employees, loval government officials, and farmers.

Olechowski termed the compromise reached between employers and employees as a particular BBWR achievement. In that part of the BBWR program proposed by the Solidarity "Network," employers call for a free market, with all its consequences, such as the liquidation of weak enterprises. The BBWR itself accepts the "Network" postulate of abolishing tax on supernumerary wages in 1994.

Entrepreneurs stress the need to stabilize the conditions of economic activity. Hence their proposal to freeze taxation rates for six years from 1994.

The third arm of the BBWR, the farmers, in their part of the BBWR program, call for a rapid privatization of processing plants, with a large proportion of the shares going to the farmers.

Local government officials want to see a rapid and determined devolution of power, which should be accompanied by an increase in local authority budgets. Thirty percent of tax revenue should be given to the local authorities, they say.

Intruders Break Into Parties' Headquarters

LD2308210293 Warsaw PAP in English 2013 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Krakow, Aug. 23—The building which houses the local headquarters of four political parties and two charitable foundations in Krakow was broken into in the early hours of Monday morning [23 August], according to the duty officer at Krakow west police headquarters, Inspector Zdzislaw Bialek.

The parties concerned are the Social Democracy of the Polish Republic (SdRP), the Movement for the Third Republic of Poland (RTR), the Freedom Party (PW) and Polish Unity (ZP).

Several rooms were ransacked but the amount of the losses incurred is not yet known.

Meanwhile in Torun the regional public prosecutor ordered the arrest of Jaroslaw S. and Bogdan P. (names withheld) who allegedly attempted to break into the local Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN) electoral HQ, according to Regional Prosecutor Henryk Kowalski.

The two men were first caught by KPN members. They deny the charges.

Committee Approves Compensation for Privatization

LD2308202093 Warsaw PAP in English 1928 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 23—The cabinet Economic Committee (Kerm) at its Monday [23 August] session approved the text of legislation which would allocate 5 percent of the shares of companies slated for privatisation to compensate former owners whose property was confiscated by the communist regime.

Commenting after the meeting, Mieczyslaw Marek of the Privatisation Ministry noted that around 20 companies had already created a share reserve for this eventuality. He also noted that approximately 8,500 applications had been lodged concerning the illegal nationalisation of property during communist rule in Poland.

Kerm also continued its examination of the government's assumptions for industrial policy in 1994, in the latest amended version. The main aim of the programme is to strengthen the moves towards the development of an effective, competitive and innovative market economy in Poland over a 10-year timescale. Under the proposals, the present government commits itself to greater economic action than would be the rule in a more mature market economy.

The committee recommended that the Minister of Industry and Trade should present a definitive version of the industrial assumptions for 1994, in such a form as could be recommended for approval to the full cabinet.

Commenting after the session, Deputy Prime Minister Henryk Goryszewski said that many of the outlined assumptions had been implemented. The aim of the policy was to limit the scope of heavy industry, and to develop the smaller manufacturing sector.

Also on Monday, Kerm began a preliminary discussion on proposals from the Central Statistical Office (GUS) for its 1994 research programme. The GUS proposals relate to further moves to reflect in statistical research the changes in the Polish economy and society in recent years, and to amend Polish statistical methodology in conformity with the requirements of the United Nations and the European Communities.

According to GUS, the proposed programme for 1994 will cost an estimated 1.6 trillion zlotys (94 million dollars). Kerm obligated GUS to prepare an updated version of the programme taking into account the resources allocated under the 1994 budget.

Solidarity Rallies Against Government Privatization

LD2308182793 Warsaw PAP in English 1733 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Walbrzych, Aug. 23—Solidarity leaders called privatisation "robbery" and a "fraud" at a demonstration organised by the national leadership of Solidarity which took place in Walbrzych on Monday [23 August]. Delegations of Solidarity trade unionists from all over Poland joined the march.

Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski told the rally before the start of the demonstration that privatisation in Poland was nothing short of robbery. "We will not build a healthy market economy on lies," said Krzaklewski who wanted decisive changes to be made in privatisation strategy by Premier Suchocka and President Walesa. "If the existing law is too weak in this matter, then we demand extraordinary measures from those in government," declared the Solidarity chief.

Krzaklewski added that the union had a special book where it noted down all the crimes concerning privatisation which had been committed.

Solidaritys Warsaw region leader Maciej Jankowski called privatisation a "fraud".

The demonstration went to the provincial governors office where a petition was handed in demanding the resignation of Privatisation Minister Lewandowski and major changes in privatisation policy.

Suchocka: NATO Membership Not Directed Against East

LD2308192293 Warsaw PAP in English 1830 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 23—Premier Hanna Suchocka said on Sunday [22 August] that Poland's membership of NATO would not be directed against its eastern neighbours but would serve to extend the European security zone.

Suchocka was speaking at the Warsaw meeting of the Aspen Institute, an international organisation which has its headquarters in the United States and aims to bring business leaders, politicians and academics from all over the world closer together.

"Membership of NATO is one of the strategic aims of our foreign policy. NATO is the only military organisation able to operate effectively and it has a big moral potential," reads the text of Suchocka's speech issued by the government press office.

Suchocka maintained that Poland could enrich NATO's potential because of its geographical location and its knowledge of the region. She stressed that the world was now very integrated and that the problems of Central and Eastern Europe were also problems of the West.

"This does not mean that the West should solve these problems for us, but that we should understand that we can only solve them together," explained Poland's prime minister.

Cabinet Approves Agreements With Russia

LD2308222093 Warsaw PAP in English 2122 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 23—The Polish cabinet at its session on Monday [23 August] approved the texts of several Polish-Russian treaties which are to be signed during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Poland.

Krzysztof Nowak, the recently-appointed head of the government press office, said that in some cases, specific details still remained to be clarified. However, the cabinet had approved the bases of a Polish-Russian treaty on economic and trade cooperation, and the text of the recently-initialled agreement prepared by the Ministry for Industry and Trade relating to the planned transit pipeline across Poland to Western Europe for Russian natural gas.

According to the government communique, the two sides to the trade agreement, in accordance with the Polish-Russian treaty of friendship and good-neighbourly relations, will do everything in their power to facilitate the development of wider bilateral trade contacts.

The treaty on the gas pipeline will enable the setting-up of a joint Polish-Russian company to construct the pipeline, which will allow a through-put of up to 67 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year.

Other agreements relate to scientific and technical cooperation, cultural and academic cooperation, environmental protection, cooperation in dealing with industrial catastrophes, a protocol on bilateral Foreign Ministry contacts, and an international protocol on implementation of bilateral agreements.

Lithuanian Treaty Talks End in 'Fiasco'

AU2308195393 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Jacek Fedor: "Still No Treaty"]

[Text] The second round of Polish-Lithuanian talks on a treaty has ended in a fiasco: No agreement was reached on the full text of the document. During the two days of talks in Vilnius, not even a start was made on discussion of the provisions of the "historical declaration," which is to be signed along with the treaty. So, the documents will not be initialed in Budziski on 1 September, despite what the prime ministers have said.

"It is up to the prime ministers," said Vladislavas Domarkas, Lithuanian deputy minister of foreign affairs, after the end of the second round of talks with the Polish delegation, when he was asked about the announcements made by Adolfas Slezevicius and Hanna Suchocka that the treaty should be signed on 1 September in Budziski. Despite the expectations voiced a few weeks ago during the Warsaw meeting between the Lithuanian prime minister and the head of the Polish Government, the round of talks on the treaty that ended yesterday did not result in work on the treaty being completed.

"So far, we have managed to reach an agreement on 20 of the treaty's 26 articles," said Iwo Byczewski, deputy minister of foreign affairs and head of the Polish negotiating team. Of the remaining provisions, three articles require minor corrections and three require further negotiations. Members of neither the Lithuanian or Polish negotiations wanted to inform correspondents about the details of the differences, stressing that they would only do so once the negotiations had been completed. We know that during the talks, an agreement was reached on three provisions concerning the rights of ethnic minorities in both countries and on the title of the document. On the other hand, in addition to the six aforementioned articles, an agreement was not reached on the content of the treaty's preamble. Not even a start was made on the most difficult part of the work—discussion of the intergovernmental "historical declaration," which is to be signed along with the treaty.

Talking about the provisions of the declaration, Minister Byczewski stressed that "at this stage of the negotiations, they cannot be the subject of discussion." A further round of Polish-Lithuanian talks is to take place in a few weeks' time, perhaps at the end of September.

However, this is by no means to say that it will be the last round. The Lithuanians have markedly toned down their position on the provisions of the historical declaration—they have renounced the condemnation of General Lucjan Zeligowski—and, according to Slezevicius, they will not insist that it should contain as a strongly worded a formulation as "occupation." However—as even moderate Lithuanian politicians generally state—in the agreement between the two states, Poland should adopt a position on the past that would rule out any possible future claims regarding territory or assets.

Dailies Speculate on Cabinet Reshuffle

AU2308111193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0907 GMT 23 Aug 93

[From the Romanian press review of 23 August]

[Excerpts] Bucharest ROMPRES, 23/8/1993—All the Monday central dailies comment the agenda of the extraordinary parliamentary session summoned for 30 August.

Newspapers inform that the parliamentary anti-corruption committee is to decide in its first meeting after the summer recess whether or not it will present a report at the extraordinary session.

ADEVARUL, CURIERUL NATIONAL, CRONICA ROMANA, TINERETUL LIBER, and other publications carry comments on the recent Gallup poll in Romania, which shows that although 42 percent of the persons questioned stated they did not trust the Government, only 34 percent of them think it should be replaced, while 40 percent are against such a move. This makes the editorialist of CRONICA ROMANA advance the idea of a reshuffle rather than the changing of the entire government team.

EVENIMENTUL ZILEI, while quoting anonymous sources from the ruling party (Social Democracy Party of Romania—PDSR) speculates on the ministers of transport, agriculture, and trade as the first envisioned for replacement and gives the change as probable for not later than this week.

TINERETUL LIBER, trying to assess the chances of the opposition in joining the executive, and what portfolios it might get, says that "practically, all there is left for the opposition to do is to persist in its non-commitment attitude, allowing the power to capsize in the economic muddle," and reminds that over the past few weeks, when the cabinet was faced with serious social turmoil, the leader of the main opposition coalition had been on a long tour abroad and that he returned after the "games had been over." TINERETUL LIBER describes this as a characteristic feature of the Romanian political opposition: non-involvement in Romania's concrete problems.

"We consider our military relations with the U.S. as very important. The Americans' presence in a permanently changing Europe is further welcome," said Defense Minister Lieutenant General Niculae Spiroiu in an interview for the daily NINE O'CLOCK, quoted by EVENIMENTUL ZILEI. The minister also says that the Romanian-U.S. military relations are in tune with the Romanian people's aspirations. [passage omitted]

Several dailies write about the historical significance of 23 August which, for 45 years, until December 1989, used to be the national day of Romania. On that day, in 1944, a group of members of several parties, with the consent of the royal house, arrested the then head of state, Marshal Ion Antonescu, and took Romania out of the German sphere of influence and onto the allies' side. The event, eulogized with highest honors during the communist regime, which lay maximum weight on the communists' contribution in the act, was and still is a controversial page of Romanian history due both to the circumstances in which it occurred and to its long-term consequences. [passage omitted]

Hrebenciuc Called 'Monster' Over Bilingual Issue

AU2308195193 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 21-22 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Cristina Sofronie and Aristotel Bunescu: "Reactions to the Decision of the Council for Ethnic Minorities"]

[Excerpt] During a news conference [on 20 August] Corneliu Vadim Tudor, president of the Greater Romania Party [PRM] read a communique violently attacking Viorel Hrebenciuc, government secretary general and chairman of the National Council for Ethnic Minorities. According to the MEDIAFAX news agency, the PRM president stated: "The PRM expresses its astonishment at the initiative taken by the chairman of the National Committee for Ethnic Minorities to decide, all by himself, that in certain Romanian localities, also inhabited by ethnic minorities, there should be bilingual inscriptions of the names of these localities, the streets, and the public institutions. This is a gross violation of the Constitution of our country. Anyone can see that Hrebenciuc lacks any political sense and is unable to think logically, because normally he should be fighting for legality and not for the legitimation of chauvinistic activity perpetrated particularly by the UDMR [the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania]. Mr. Hrebenciuc himself also belongs to an ethnic minority, as they say he is a Ukrainian Jew, which should be no problem, but that does not give him the right to defy a whole country and grant privileges, as magnanimously as a pasha, that the UDMR leaders themselves would never have dreamed of. We would like to announce that if Mr. Hrebenciuc is not immediately removed and the government does not annul the irresponsible measures taken by him, the PRM will withdraw any support granted to the current state power and will organize protest rallies and marches throughout the country. Treason to the homeland should be immediately punished."

Talking about Mr. Viorel Hrebenciuc, the PRM president added: "Did we wage our long fight just to see the government foster such a monster as Viorel Hrebenciuc?" [passage omitted]

SRI Refutes Former U.S. Ambassador's Allegations

AU2008194193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1549 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/8/1993—A press release of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) rejects allegations voiced by the United States' former

ambassador in Romania David Funderburk and published by the daily ROMANIA LIBERA in its August 18 issue.

"The labelling of the SRI as 'political police' is nothing but a groundless cliche.

"By its basic concepts, structure, prerogatives and work patterns, our institution excluded from the very beginning and irrevocably any repressive features and has developed only activities of prevention, protection and defense, all directed to matters precisely specified by the law.

"As a body characteristic of the state of law, similar to those existing in countries of democratic tradition, including the United States, the SRI is politically unbiased, its functions are meant solely for the purpose of ensuring national security as defined by the law.

"We reject therefore as aberrant the allegations referring to the 'tactics of terror' or 'intimidation of the opposition,' as attitudes ascribed to us by Mr. Funderburk.

"As for the 'political assassination' the former ambassador refers to, we positively state that no such case has occurred in post-totalitarian Romania and less so one in which the SRI could have been involved directly or indirectly."

Union Protests Dismissal of Strike Participants

AU2408104493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Yesterday the Free and Independent Trade Union of the Brasov railroad depot sent us a communique protesting the fact that the National Romanian Railroad Company [SNCFR] fired trade union members Vilmos Rezek, Stefan Vajda, William Dobre, and Octavian Dabija.

Virgil Nita, the director of the Brasov regional branch of SNCFR has confirmed to our correspondent that the labor contracts of the four train engineers and assistant train engineers have been terminated because they had refused to resume work after the Supreme Court of Justice suspended the strike and after the communique of the executive bureau of the government had been published [on 17 August].

Last night a source that wished to remain anonymous contacted our Brasov correspondent and revealed the following: By the time the government communique regarding the train engineers' strike was published, all telephone lines and the entire railroad communication system lines had been broken on orders of engineer Coca, the head of the SNCFR communications department. After the aforementioned communique had been published, at about 2000 [1700 GMT on 17 Aug], Mr. Aurel Dumitrescu, the chairman of the SNCFR administration board, ordered, through a certain engineer Lupulet, that all Brasov depot telephone and fax lines, that is, those of the general headquarters of the Free and Independent Federation of Train Engineers' Trade Unions of Romania, should be cut off [thus preventing a joint decision of the local unions and general headquarters on whether to go on with the strike or resume work]. That Mr. Lupulet also gave instructions that telephone contacts should be reestablished exclusively on his personal orders.

We would like to repeat that all this information has been put at our Brasov correspondent's disposal by a source who wished to remain anonymous.

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 24 August
WA2408180793

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Bosnian Serbs comment on peace plan ... Municipal authorities denounce plan ... UNPROFOR Commander Cot says NATO air strikes remain "serious option" ... Bosnian Presidency orders full conscription ... Muslim-Croat fighting continues in Mostar, UN convoy blocked by Croats in Medjugorje.

DIPLOMATIC

BOSNIAN SERBS COMMENT ON PEACE PLAN (TANJUG, AFP): According to TANJUG, Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic warns that Serbs will keep territory currently under their control if Muslims reject peace plan reducing Serbian-held area from 70 to 52 percent of Bosnian territory. AFP reports Serbs to debate plan on 26, 27 August, quotes Bosnian Serb "assembly chairman" Krajisnik as saying that Serbs' "legitimate demand" for access to Adriatic Sea, which is not included in the plan, will "be revived" after relations with Croatia are normalized. (AU2408104093, LD2308214393)

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES DENOUNCE PLAN (Sarajevo Radio): Municipal authorities in Jablanica, Konjic, Prozor, and Mostar send letter to Bosnian President Izetbegovic saying that partition of Bosnia would "lead to the destruction of the state" and "to the Muslims as a nation in Bosnia." (AU2308121393)

UN PROTECTION FORCES

COT: AIR STRIKE "SERIOUS OPTION" (Paris LE MONDE): Calling UNPROFOR Commander for Bosnia Briquemont's recent criticism of NATO "unfortunate," UNPROFOR Commander for former Yugoslavia Cot says NATO air strike "remains a serious option" and that his commanders "will have nothing more to say on this subject." (PM2308154893)

POLITICAL

PRESIDENCY ORDERS FULL CONSCRIPTION (Sarajevo Radio): Bosnian Presidency orders "mobilization of all conscripts in full," prosecution of "all deserters," employment in nondefense posts of "all women and those unfit to serve" in Army, and granting of priority status to "families of deceased or wounded fighters in resolving housing problems." (AU2308194593)

MILITARY

MUSLIM-CROAT FIGHTING IN MOSTAR: Sarajevo Radio says five children killed in Croatian artillery attack on Muslim area of Mostar. Mostar Radio reports Croats responded to a "fierce" Muslim attack in the city, inflicted "huge human losses" on Muslim forces. According to AFP, Bosnian Croat forces in Medjugorje blocked UN convoy carrying food and medicine for besieged Muslim sector of Mostar. (AU2408144793, AU2408142593, LD2408131593)

Serb Assembly To Debate Geneva Plan 26, 27 Aug

AU2408104093 Paris AFP in English 1019 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 24 (AFP)—The Bosnian Serb Assembly will debate the Geneva peace plan on the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina on Thursday [26 August] and Friday, the news agency SRNA reported here.

Momcilo Krajisnik, the speaker of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb "parliament," told the agency that the Serb negotiating team had found it difficult to agree to the peace package put forward at Geneva last week by mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

"It deadened our souls to agree to the concessions because we could not accept that a single piece of our ethnic land be granted to the Muslims or the Croats," Krajisnik said.

The plan's map would reduce the Serb area of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the 70 percent that their forces now control to just over 50 percent.

Asked about the failure of the southeastern Bosnian Serbs to gain an outlet to the Adriatic Sea, Krajisnik said: "That legitimate demand will be revived after the normalisation of relations between Serbia and Croatia."

The Serbs had hoped that the Geneva talks would enable them to obtain a part of the Croatian coastline east of Dubrovnik.

Krajisnik said the "parliament" would meet in the Serb stronghold of Pale outside Sarajevo.

The peace plan divides Bosnia into three largely-autonomous, ethnic republics under a weak "union" government.

When Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic left the Geneva conference last week, he said he would recommend the plan to the "parliament." The Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban also said he accepted it.

The mainly-Muslim Bosnian parliament is expected to debate the plan on Friday in Zenica.

Assembly To Discuss Peace Plan in Sarajevo

AU2408073193 Paris AFP in English 0055 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, Aug 24 (AFP)—As leaders of Bosnia's warring communities prepared for consultations on the Geneva partition plan designed to end the 16-month conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, U.N. officials began talks in Zagreb Monday [23 August] on deploying further troops in the ravaged republic.

Bosnian parliamentary speaker Miro Lazovic said deputies would be meeting in Sarajevo on Friday, correcting a previous statement by President Alija Izetbegovic that the meeting would take place at Zenica, in central Bosnia.

The self-declared presidency of the Bosnian Croat community is due to discuss the Geneva plan some time in the next few days, one of its leaders told AFP.

The three parties to the conflict have until next Monday to ratify or repudiate the plan before returning to Geneva for a resumption of the talks mediated by Lord Owen for the European Community and Thorvald Stoltenberg for the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Friday's session of the Bosnian parliament to discuss the plan, which envisages dividing the war-torn republic into a loose union of three ethnically-based republics, will be open to many Bosnian intellectuals, artists and military representatives.

Izetbegovic said Sunday that he was not calling people to the meeting to vote for or against the project, but to give their opinions on a plan which he described as having its "good and its bad points."

Under the plan the Moslems, who before the war made up 44 percent of the population, would be assigned a patchwork comprising 30 percent of the territory.

Croat authorities in the northeast Bosanska Posavina region rejected the partition plans on Monday saying it enshrined the idea of Serb ethnic cleansing. [passage omitted]

The U.N. anticipates deploying an extra 7,600 men in Bosnia to protect the six U.N. designated "safe areas" of Sarajevo, Srebenica, Zepa, Gorazde, Tuzla and Bihac. [passage omitted]

Mediator Stoltenberg warned in a statement read in New York that if the fighting in Bosnia had not stopped by the time that winter set in, conditions there would be a nightmare. [passage omitted]

Karadzic: Serbs Will Keep Territory if Deal Rejected

LD2308214393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2003 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Novi Sad, 23 Aug—(TANJUG)—The Geneva talks are finished as far as the Serbs, and I believe the Croats too, are concerned, the Dr. Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, has said for tomorrow's edition of the DNEVNIK of Novi Sad.

If the Muslims reject the agreement we shall then keep "not the 54 percent of the territory of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina which belongs to us according to the agreement, but also all the areas we are holding under our control," Karadzic says. Thus, the Muslims could lose even the 10 percent or so of the territory that they are holding under their control, he added.

Karadzic underlines that a big step toward a final peace has been made in Geneva, according to all participants in the talks except for Alija Izetbegovic. "Mr. Izetbegovic still expects support from the United States, and if President Clinton gives him encouragement not to sign the peace package—there will be nothing of the much wanted peace." It is, however, difficult to believe that the mighty United States will decide on such a step, since the whole international community is fed up with the war in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, Karadzic noted.

"I do not believe that the U.S. will sabotage the Geneva talks, despite the fact that Alija Izetbegovic expects a military intervention from them. That will then mean that the U.S. is not in favor of peace in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Asked what will happen with the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK), Karadzic replied with another question: What could happen? "The Serbs and Croats must reach an agreement which will guarantee that never again will a Croat hand kill a Serb, nor a Serb hand a Croat." I would recommend to the RSK political and state leadership to take into consideration every constructive proposal, whoever it may come from. It would be useful if they were to reach an agreement on opening roads, communication lines, and power generating facilities, since this is in the interest of both Croatia and the RSK. The Serbian people in the RSK need not worry—they are not and they never will be left in the lurch, for the Serbian people of the republic of Srpska will always be with them, Karadzic said.

Asked if the confederation between the RSK and the Republic of Croatia was possible, Karadzic replied: "I do not know if Croatia is interested in such a form of relations with the RSK, but why not, perhaps that would be advantageous for both sides. Every sensible proposal must be discussed. We will be 100 percent behind the interests of the Serbian people in the RSK, and the people have shown in the referendum what their interest is."

Karadzic noted that in Geneva, the republic of Srpska did not manage to get access to the [Adriatic] Sea, but expressed his belief that it would get it through Prevlaka and Konavla. "We shall resolve the issue in direct negotiations with Croatia. We would give them the Dubrovnik hinterland and they would give us access to the Adriatic. No guesses and speculations on the deal should be made. It is in the interest of both the republic of Srpska and of Croatia to find a solution satisfactory for both sides, and I am sure that we will find it," Karadzic stressed in an exclusive statement for the DNEVNIK of Novi Sad.

Comments on Peace Plan

LD2408113393 Pale Radio-Televizija Republike Srpske Studio-S Radio in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Last night Serb Television hosted a program called Geneva—War or Peace. Guests in the studio were Radovan Karadzic, Nikola Koljevic, and Momcilo Krajisnik. For the viewers of Channel S they commented on the most important issues raised in the course of the marathon Geneva negotiations.

Srpska republic president Radovan Karadzic stressed that in Geneva, according to all participants in the negotiations, a great step forward towards final peace has been made. He also said that a compromise on the territorial division, which is painful for all three sides, has been achieved. Asked by the television program anchor what the Serb delegation was bringing back from the Geneva negotiations, Radovan Karadzic replied:

[Begin Karadzic recording] I think, that in light of your dilemma, we are coming back with peace. The Serb people urgently need peace, it is necessary at this moment, and it is needed immediately. I can say that as far as the Serbs are concerned, peace has already been restored: for five months we have not been fighting the Croats and there is a certain truce in fighting with the Muslims.

Therefore, I think that this is a suitable moment to reach peace because Croatia is in dire straits. Herceg-Bosna is also in dire straits. As far as the Muslim side is concerned, it is its turn now; if it opts for war, the entire international community will be aware of it and the Muslims will lose a considerable amount of support that they have so far totally unjustifiably enjoyed, because they are mainly to blame for the war up until now.

I have heard that they proclaimed a general mobilization at the moment when they are to discuss a proposal that has been tabled, and if it is so, we will examine that very seriously, wait for Monday and Geneva, and if their choice and their will is the war option then we will undertake some countermeasures which will be necessary to establish a balance and protect the Serbian people. [end recording]

The republic of Srpska assembly is expected at its session either to reject or accept the Geneva documents. Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the Serbian parliament, spoke about this in last night's program.

[Begin Krajisnik recording] We planned that the assembly would be held this week in line with the obligations in accordance with the agreement in Geneva. This should be Thursday and Friday because by that time we should have had a session of the deputies' club and a wide-ranging debate with the main committee of the Serbian Democratic Party—the party in power—and with the deputies in the parliament.

I hope that, besides other issues, attention will be focused on the issues raised at Geneva, and we have certain other specific problems which we must resolve in this parliament [words indistinct].

It is planned that this should take place in Pale because communications are now a lot better and it is possible for deputies from Herzegovina and old Herzegovina and from Krajina to come, and this would be [word indistinct] the best solution. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Municipal Authorities Denounce Partition

AU2308121393 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The War Presidencies of the Jablanica, Konjic, Prozor, and Mostar municipalities have sent a letter to the Assembly of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the President of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency Alija Izetbegovic in reaction to the Geneva negotiations. The letter states the following:

While aware of all the difficulties that you, Mr. President, and the state delegation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, had to face at the Geneva negotiations, and while highly respecting your efforts to keep the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina whole and undivided—just as it was recognized by the international community—the War Presidencies of the Assemblies of the Jablanica, Konjic, Prozor, and Mostar municipalities reject the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina into ethnic communities. This would lead to the state's destruction, and particularly to the destruction of the Muslims as a people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The inhabitants and political representatives of these municipalities support your negotiations, yours and the state delegation's, but they reject any fait accompli policy, forced solutions advocating the partition of the Bosnia-Herzegovina territory along ethnic lines, because we strongly believe that all those individuals, regardless of their nationality and religion, who have not engaged in criminal activity or war profiteering, who do not propagate negative ideologies, who have not soiled their hands with the blood of their countrymen, are citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They are all those Bosnians and Herzegovinians who are fighting for an integral Bosnia-Herzegovina, the one that we already have, and that was recognized by the democratic international public.

It is time to openly tell the whole world that, along with the Serbo-chetnik hordes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Croatian Army is also the aggressor, as is the Croatian Defense Council [HVO]. The basis of our Constitution and the interests of the Bosnia-Herzegovina peoples warn that no one has the right to sign the capitulation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. A possible acceptance of the proposed maps is capitulation and the destruction of our statehood. This act would confirm the justification of a continued struggle to keep Bosnia-Herzegovina integral. We are warning that even the Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly, or someone who is representing it, cannot sign any kind of division or partition against the will of the people. This is stated in the letter of the War Presidencies of the Konjic, Jablanica, Prozor, and Mostar municipalities, which was submitted to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly and the President of the Presidency Alija Izetbegovic.

Izetbegovic Appeals for Medical Aid in Maglaj

LD2308225093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] President of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency Alija Izetbegovic today addressed UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] Commander for Bosnia-Herzegovina Francis Briquemont asking him to enable representatives of humanitarian organizations Medicins sans Frontieres and Pharmaceutiques sans Frontieres to enter Maglaj and Tesanj, which have been under complete siege for a long time. No humanitarian aid has been dispatched there recently.

A similar letter was sent to UNPROFOR command in our country by deputy commander of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army Stjepan Siber:

I have been informed that a team of Medicins sans Frontieres is currently staying in Tuzla and is getting ready to leave for Maglaj and Tesanj. The Serbo-chetnik aggressor has not allowed them to reach these two towns. Please transport these humane people by your vehicles urgently. I have learned that the Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation will not take part in the resumption of Geneva negotiations unless UNPROFOR secures humanitarian activities similar to this one, the letter by deputy commander of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army Stjepan Siber says.

Presidency Orders Full Conscription

AU2308194593 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, in the name of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of our country, have issued an order to all the authorities in the Republic. They are ordered—so as to carry out measures for the unhindered implementation of their functions arising from the declaration of the state of war—immediately to take decisive steps in compliance with Articles 8 and 9 of the decree on defense with the force of law, as follows:

1. To clear up the facts about conscripts. To carry out the mobilization of all conscripts in full. To prosecute all deserters resolutely and to publish their names in the media. To reexamine employment contracts already issued and reduce the number of employees to the minimal level. To resolve immediately issues regarding the status of fighters and their families. To publish the names of officials among the authorities with family members who are conscripts outside the country or in any other way avoiding their military service.

2. To staff the civil defense headquarters and engage it in creating the conditions for the maximum protection of the civilian population, cultural goods, and other assets from military attack. To distribute food, water, energy resources, and other essential goods fairly and rationally. To safeguard hygiene conditions in populated areas. To help the old, the infirm, refugees, exiles, and sick and

injured people. To organize the distribution of humanitarian aid and constantly maintain order in connection with this. To reexamine thoroughly the lists of recipients of the humanitarian aid so as to prevent all forms of abuse in this sphere.

3. To reexamine all compulsory work orders. To employ women and those unfit to serve in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in all posts, except defense posts. This primarily refers to jobs in administration, the distribution of humanitarian aid, humanitarian organizations, international organizations such as the UN Protection Forces, the UNHCR, and [word indistinct].

4. In resolving housing problems, priority should be given to the families of deceased or wounded fighters with unresolved housing problems.

5. The members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially those on the front lines, must be the focus of interest and support, and the authorities and civil defense must make their full contribution here.

6. With the help of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the legal authorities have a duty to prevent all forms of behavior such as desertion, smuggling, war profiteering, disturbance of public order, and endangering property, which are undermining unity in the battle against the aggressor and for the liberation of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Any form of inertia or failure to carry out this order will be considered as weakening the state's defense capacity and posing a threat to the Liberation War and, accordingly, literally all sanctions will be taken against the perpetrators of such actions, a statement by the Press Center of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army [as heard] emphasizes.

General Cot: Air Strikes Remain 'Serious Option'

PM2308154893 Paris LE MONDE in French 22-23 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by correspondent Jean-Baptiste Naudet: "According to General Cot, Air Raids Remain a 'Serious Option'"]

[Text] Zagreb—After attending air exercises in the Muslim enclave of Bihac, the UN "security zone" in western Bosnia, French General Jean Cot, senior officer in the UN Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) in ex-Yugoslavia, clarified his position on the question of air raids on Friday 20 August. While Belgian General Francis Briquemont, UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia, had—to the great displeasure of the United States—just reiterated in Sarajevo his opposition to NATO air strikes, General Cot dispatched a particularly curt communique from his Zagreb headquarters. "After some recent unfortunate comments," General Cot, who is senior to General Briquemont, "confirms that the use of air support in enforcement of Security Council Resolution 836 remains a serious option."

Under Paragraph Nine of Resolution 836, adopted 3 June 1993, the Security Council "authorizes UNPROFOR to take all necessary measures, including the use of air force, in response to shelling of security zones by any of the parties (in conflict), armed incursions into those zones, or deliberate obstruction of the freedom of movement of UNPROFOR or humanitarian convoys in or around these zones." In his communique General Cot gives the assurance that "there is no doubt whatsoever that General Briquemont and I will seek to utilize the important military resource that NATO can provide if the conditions so justify."

This clarification is designed to put an end to public debate which could weaken the force of deterrence. "My commanders will have nothing more to say on this subject," General Cot curtly concluded. Since his arrival as head of UNPROFOR at the beginning of July, General Cot has endeavored to strengthen the Blue Helmets' credibility. Thus, after shelling near Jablanica at the end of July had killed a Spanish soldier and wounded 17 others, the commander ordered an "air reconnaissance" of the sector by UN helicopters.

On Wednesday 18 August General Cot went to the Bihac area, one of the six UN security zones in Bosnia, to watch the first air strike exercise. NATO planes engaged in simulated firing on ground targets. The exercise was "training" for UNPROFOR air controllers on the ground and NATO aircraft, the results of which, it was explained at UNPROFOR, afforded General Cot "complete satisfaction."

UN Relief Convoy Permitted in Muslim Area

LD2408110093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1038 GMT 24 Aug 93

Belgrade, August 24 (TANJUG)—Spokeswoman of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Lyndall Sachs on Tuesday [24 August] said the Bosnian Croat Army had allowed a U.N. relief convoy to deliver aid to 55,000 Moslems beseiged by Croats in Mostar, a town in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mostar has been the scene of bitter battles between Bosnian Croats and Moslems, former allies against Bosnian Serbs, who have been clashing since early May for supremacy in the territories with a mixed Moslem-Croat population.

Bosnian Moslem sources say that 107 people, including 53 children, have been killed and 458 wounded by Croatian shelling in Mostar in the past three months.

REUTER quoted Lyndall Sachs as saying that 19 trucks carrying 200 tonnes of food and medical supplies were due to reach Mostar by 14:00 GMT Tuesday. Bosnian Croat military spokesman Vaso Vegar said the Croatian Defence Council had given authorisation for the convoy.

A humanitarian convoy, the first in two months, carrying only a small amount of medical supplies, reached the Moslem-held eastern part of Mostar on Saturday.

UNHCR has been putting pressure on Bosnian Croats to lift their blickade of the Moslems with warnings that some would start to die soon of starvation.

HVO Accused of 'Mass Slaughter'

AU2308151893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Report by Dzevad Dziho from Mostar]

[Text] The world has finally learned about Mostar, the saddest city on the planet. All those who have entered the city over the past three days have been shocked by the tragedy that is [word indistinct] the citizens of Mostar, because spending time in Mostar today means spending time in hell. Fifty thousand people, over half of whom have been expelled from their homes, are being subjected to the cruelest methods by the (?civilians), the Croatian Defense Council, and the authorities of the so-called Croatian community of Herceg-Bosnia. These people require help immediately. Representatives of the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] and the UNHCR have tried to do something, but have concluded that they did not receive enough understanding from the other side. Could anything else have been expected from those who have written the scenario [words indistinct] in these areas?

According to eyewitnesses, (?refugees), and the information of the 42d Hill Brigade, the ethnic cleansing of the [name indistinct], Capljina, and a part of the Mostar municipality was conducted with the aid of the most [word indistinct] fascist methods. In addition to the fact that over 15,000 civilians have been expelled from these areas and several thousand individuals of fighting age taken to concentration camps, several mass graves have been uncovered.

(?Eye-witnesses) of the mass slaughter which took place at the Partisans' Cemetery in (?Unijevci) near Capljina, claim that bulldozers literally covered up over 100 victims from concentration camps in central Bosnia, Prozor, Stojnic, (?Doljave), and the Dubrava Plain [Dubravaska Visoravan], who had been killed in the most bestial way. Today, in Mostar, those expelled from these areas are witnessing [words indistinct] and are painfully eating their one meal, which is very often accompanied by fear of grenades and [words indistinct].

Dozens of destructive shells landed on Mostar in the course of the morning. There are casualties. The situation in the city hospital is alarming owing to the lack of medicine and equipment. The truth about Mostar has gone out into the world. Will the world help these desperate people? This has been Dzevad Dziho reporting from Mostar for Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina.

HVO Strengthens Defense

LD2408095493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Following last night's infantry and artillery battles in Mostar, the defense lines of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] have been fortified and strengthened, and in some parts of the city even moved forward, the southeast Herzegovina HVO operational zone has confirmed.

On the battlefields south of Mostar most of the shooting was by snipers. Muslim forces caused provocations in the Slatina area of the Rama River battlefield. There was fierce fighting in the Uzdol area, where the HVO, in a counterattack, inflicted great losses on the Muslim army.

All the attacks of the Muslim forces on HVO positions in the Kiseljak, Kresevo and Fojnica areas were repelled, the central Bosnia HVO operational zone announced.

Muslim forces caused provocations around Vitez: Seven people were wounded, mainly children, when a mortar was fired at the town center last night.

Mostar Buildings on Fire

LD2308155293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1346 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Trebinje, 23 Aug (TANJUG)—Mostar is the scene of heavy clashes between Muslim and Croat units again today, and according to the command of Serbian forces on that part of the battlefield, shells are constantly exploding in the city and its surrounding area and bursts of gunfire can be heard.

The clashes began last night and shells have been landing on both the Muslim and Croat-held parts of the city, as well as the suburbs. Many buildings in both the Muslim and the Croat side are on fire in Mostar today. [passage omitted]

Intense Overnight Attacks Reported From Mostar, Brcko

AU2408100393

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0800 GMT on 24 August reports the following combat situation in the Republic:

An announcer-read roundup report by the Press Center of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army says that "in the last 24 hours the enemy troops have been attacking the civilian quarters and the defense lines of Mostar, Blagaj, and Bijelo Polje with artillery. They fired over 100 projectiles of various calibers from howitzers, mortars, multiple rocket launchers, antiaircraft machine guns, antiaircraft guns, and have also fired from Broving sniper rifles with trappings and laser sights." "The criminals of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Croatian Army, in their insane criminal attack, inflicted enormous material damage upon the town of Mostar and its

surroundings," the report goes on. "Tens of civilians have been injured and died, among whom were numerous children," the reports states. "The situation in the zone of responsibility of the 3d Corps was considerably quieter," the report goes on, with the exception of sporadic infantry arms provocations. "There were no major combat activities on the Sarajevo battlefield" either, the Press Center claims. "In the region of the Bosnian Sava Basin, parallel to the constant Serbo-Montenegrin offensive new regrouping of enemy soldiers is also underway," the report states. "Helicopter overflights on the Turic-Pelagicevo, Samac-Brcko, Samac-Pelagicevo, Brcko-Ugljevik-Bjeljina routes have also been observed," the report adds.

Mirudin Aldobasic reports from Doboj that "the chetniks" fired "more than 500 destructive projectiles at Matuzici" at approximately 2000 GMT last night. As he says, the situation was similar in Alibegovici, Mravici, and Ularice. "Therefore, there is no peace in the Doboj region, while the enemy continues the offensive started last night with stepped up intensity this morning," Aldobasic reports.

The correspondent from Olovo, Velid Djindjo, reports that "a new mortar attack at the town started at 0630 this morning."

"A relatively peaceful day and a stormy night were the main characteristics of yesterday in the Zavidovici commune," a dispatch by the Bosnia Operative Group states in the introduction. "From dusk until midnight the united aggressor has intensified his activities, especially in the Krivaja River valley," the dispatch says. "Some 20 projectiles were fired from a hill gun, 82-mm mortars, and a Bofors gun" at the region of Hajdarovici, the group reports. "We noticed the movement of enemy's aircraft from Mt. Ozren toward the pontoon bridge on the Bosna River, and then further toward the Zavidovici and Maglaj battlefields," the report adds. Reportedly, "the morning is peaceful with the exception of Dubravice, Smajlbasici, and Brasevine where infantry arms provocations are present."

A report by the Gradacac Press Center says that yesterday's morning and early afternoon passed in relative peace. However, "the aggressor" supposedly embarked upon the attack at the defense lines and the free territory at 1400 GMT. As it is reported, 155-mm howitzer bombs were landing on the town center and the residential suburban areas. "The night was mostly peaceful," the center reports, adding that "there have been some minor provocations from infantry arms this morning, also."

Hamiz Deronjic reports from Brcko that "the enemy again struck most ferociously at the defense lines in the central part of the battlefield" last night. As it is reported, the positions were pounded by tanks and recoiless guns at 2000 GMT, but the defenders did not respond.

The correspondent from Gracanica, Omer Delic, says that "the Serbian extremists from Mt. Ozren," dissatisfied with the idea that they will remain within the Bosnian Republic, have fired "several tens of most destructive projectiles" at the residential quarters in the area with the intention of causing the greatest possible destruction and casualties among the civilians. Throughout the night, "the aggressor was attacking the lines of defense with Bofors guns," the correspondent says. "An artillery attack in the zone of responsibility of the 109th and 111th Brigades started at 0400," Delic continues to say, adding that Stjepan Polje, Glokotnica, [word indistinct], and Gracanica were targeted on this occasion. According to Delic, five helicopters were spotted flying from Mt. Ozren toward Doboj at midnight.

Fierce Croat-Muslim Fighting Near Zepce

LD2308164393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Muslim forces launched an attack on the Orahovica area in the Zepce region around noon. Fierce fighting has been in progress for several hours now. Frontlines are being pounded by mortars, anti-aircraft guns, and machineguns. Defenders are offering successful resistance to the attacks by the Muslim army. The enemy is suffering huge losses in manpower. An anti-aircraft gun has been destroyed on Mount Orlovik. Zepce and surrounding villages are still under artillery fire. The Muslims have fired about 200 shells today. Several industrial facilities and family dwellings have been destroyed.

There are many artillery clashes on the Zavidovici battlefield. Croatian Defense Council [HVO] positions are being targeted with howitzers and rocket launchers from Mount Klek. HVO artillery is resolutely responding to every shell. Defense lines are firmly held, and six HVO soldiers have been lightly wounded in the fighting today.

Muslim Offensive on Croat Enclaves Reported

LD2308215093 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 2040 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The Muslim offensive on Croat areas in central Bosnia continued this evening. Kiseljak, Kresevo, and the free part of the Fojnica municipality are under attack from several directions. Fighting is also continuing in the Novi Travnik area, where HVO [Croatian Defense Council] defenders are repelling the attacks of the numerically superior Muslim aggressor.

Since 1200, Muslims have been attacking defense lines in the Zepca area. Artillery clashes are currently in progress in the Zavidovici area where defenders from the HVO's 111th Brigade have repelled several infantry attacks launched by the Muslim army. [passage omitted]

Muslims Reportedly Launch Attack in North

LD2308131693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1219 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Brcko, August 23 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslem forces on Monday morning [23 August] launched a large-scale attack on Bosnian Serb positions eight kilometers to the south of Brcko, northern Bosnia.

The Serb side is using all available weapons to repel heavy mortar and infantry fire, Bosnian Serb military sources have said.

Moslem forces have continued opening infantry and mortar fire in most battlefronts in the region of Doboj, northern Bosnia, and attempted infantry breakthroughs and infiltration of commando teams, the Doboj-based Bosnian Serb military command said on Monday. Serb forces repelled the attacks and destroyed the infiltrated commando teams.

There is an unsteady lull on the Bosnian Serb defence lines in the region of Bratunac and Zvornik, eastern Bosnia, Bosnian Serb military sources have said. Moslem formations have violated the cease-fire several times in the past 24 hours, the local Serb military command in Zvornik has said. The same source said that Moslems had launched large-scale attacks about 20 km to the south of Zvornik, inflicting no casualties on the Serb side. The Serb side did not return fire, the sources said.

Croats Reportedly Shell Serb Positions Near Trebinje

LD2308190293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1708 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Trebinje, 23 Aug (TANJUG)—The Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia fired artillery and 82mm mortar shells on the areas of Hum, Staro Slano, and Trebinjska Suma, the Information Service of the Herzegovina Corps said in a statement this evening.

The Serb fighters have not responded to the attacks, according to their command. [passage omitted]

UN, Bosnian Serb Officers Discuss Mount Igman

LD2308133693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1215 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Bratunac, August 23 (TANJUG)—A joint group of officers of the Bosnian Serb army and the U.N. Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) on Monday [23 August] was on Mount Igman to determine details concerning the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers on this strategic mount south-west of Sarajevo, TANJUG learnt at the Bosnian Serb army H.Q.

After a joint tour of the local roads, representatives of the Bosnian Serb army and UNPROFOR were to reach an agreement on using the roads on Mount Igman in order to ensure the success of the U.N. mission, the statement said.

The Bosnian Serb army completed its withdrawal from Mounts Igman and Bjelasnica on August 14, and ceded its positions on the mounts overlooking Sarajevo to the "blue helmet" troops.

The Serb withdrawal from the mounts, from which fire was being opened on the Serb-controlled parts of Sarajevo when they were under Moslem control, was a concession to the Moslem side which conditioned its further participation in the Geneva peace talks by the withdrawal.

Highest UNPROFOR officers have publicly reiterated a high level of cooperation between the Serb side and the U.N. force, the Serb army H.Q. said. It added that cooperation was particularly successful during the deployment of U.N. peacekeeperes on the mounts overhanging Sarajevo and during the reopening of the roads linking Sarajevo, Mostar and Zenica, primarily for humanitarian reasons.

Moslem units, however, attacked "blue helmet" troops during their deployment on Igman. They were also hampering UNPROFOR movements there, the H.Q. said.

First Corps Insists Serbs Withdraw From Igman

AU2308195693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Bosnia-Herzegovina Army First Corps report]

[Text] The Serbo-Montenegrin aggressor has still not withdrawn from the areas on Mt. Igman and Mt. Bjelasnica contained in the withdrawal agreement. The fact that saboteur unit members have eliminated a chetnik saboteur group in the region of (?Veliki Sunj), (?near) the positions of our units, supports this claim. On that occasion, our fighters seized considerable quantities of mines and explosive devices and chased away the mortar crews, who fled quickly and left everything behind. This group of brave soldiers of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army confiscated a 120- and 60-mm mortar.

Not only are there still remnants of the Serbo-Montenegrin hegemonists on certain parts of Mt. Igman and Mt. Bjelasnica, but they are freely entertaining UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] members—that is, the soldiers of the [word indistinct] battalion—with whom they (?ate) and drank in the region of Crni Vrh yesterday. To make this insolence by the aggressor and incorrectness by UNPROFOR clearer to our listeners, we would like to summarize that the above-mentioned territory of Crni Vrh is situated in the zone that the aggressor's occupiers should have left a long time ago.

The Serbo-Montenegrin conquerors are still present in the controversial part of Babin Do, where tank engines can be heard, and in Bregova Glava, above the village of (?Mocevic).

The Information Service of the First Crops holds verified reports that the Chetnik extremists are present in the village of Sabici at the foothills of Mt. Bjelasnica. Not being able to harm the defenders, [words indistinct] heroes of the so-called Srpska republic army are burning down cereals—rye and wheat—that have remained in the village of [words indistinct]. Because of all this, the First Corps Command reinitiated a meeting with the top UNPROFOR representatives in order to inform them of active combat activities by the aggressor and insisted that UNPROFOR make the aggressor unequivocally withdraw in compliance with the agreement signed.

The Command of the First Corps also asked UNPROFOR representatives to try and find the bodies or any trace of unfortunate refugees from the villages at the foothills of Mt. Bjelasnica.

Swedish General [name indistinct], chief of the military observers for the territory of former Yugoslavia, also visited Mt. Igman today. General [name indistinct] will travel to Gorazde tomorrow and to Pale the day after.

Bodies of Civilians, POW's Exhumed in Trnovo

LD2308140093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1243 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 23 Aug (TANJUG)—The Information Ministry of the republic of Srpska released a statement today saying that the republic of Srpska forensic commission has exhumed and identified the remains of 62 persons—Serbian civilians and POW's—from the Trnovo area.

The statement notes that the commission has been working on the location of mass graves and execution sites in Trnovo, where Serbs were brutally murdered and mutilated last year by members of Muslim-ustasha formations and the authorities of the so-called Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, under the command of Ethem Edo Godinjak, and Mulaosmanovic, the president of the former Muslim municipality of Trnovo. [passage omitted]

HVO: UN Treating Muslim, Croat Wounded 'Unequally'

LD2308221693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The General Staff of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] has issued a public statement saying that some individuals from international humanitarian organizations have been treating Muslims and Croats unequally.

Namely, simultaneously with lengthy and unfortunately unsuccessful attempts to evacuate wounded Croats from a Franciscan hospital in Nova Bila who have been dying every day due to inadequate aid, certain individuals working for international organizations, with the help from some UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] officials, have generously been helping the Muslims. The statement says that a proof of that is an event that took place last weekend when representatives of the International Red Cross, with UNPROFOR mediation, tried to evacuate three Muslims from Mahala near Vitez to Zenica, who were subsequently found to be completely well.

Industrial Output Falls to 4.8 Percent of 1992 Average

AU2408093893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Industrial output in Bosnia-Herzegovina in June declined by an additional 36 percent in comparison with May. Production amounted to a mere 4.8 percent of last year's average.

According to reports from the Bosnia-Herzegovina Statistics Institute, the average monthly production in the first six months fell by 89 percent. Only a few sectors, including the electricity generating industry, [words indistinct] activity, the production of finished textile goods, and the food processing industry, are maintaining a situation of which one can still speak of the existence of industrial production.

Serb Shelling Halts Maslenica Bridge Traffic

LD2408092993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] According to information released by the political activity department of the Croatian Defense Council in Zadar, there has been no fresh Serbian shelling following this morning's attack by Serbian long-range artillery on the general area of Maslenica, which resulted in a short halt to traffic across the pontoon bridge. Since then traffic across the Straits of Novsko has returned to normal and is flowing without problems. [passage omitted]

UNPROFOR Convoy Avoids Bridge

LD2308190993 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] At exactly midday, the first trucks with trailers, began crossing the repaired pontoon bridge at the Maslenica Straits. After the opening of the Maslenica bridge, and then restricting the traffic on the Pag bridge to vehicles weighing under two tonnes, the truck traffic between Dalmatia and the continental part of Croatia was redirected toward the Maslenica Straits.

The UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] convoy, which yesterday stopped over near Zadar on its way to Zagreb, and then—avoiding crossing the pontoon bridge—returned to Sukosan, did not cross the bridge today, either. The French soldiers have left for Split. [passage omitted]

Fighting Continues in Northern Dalamatia

LD2308162893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1306 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Knin, 23 Aug (TANJUG)—Fighting between the parties in the conflict has continued today in almost all parts of the northern Dalmatia front. The fighting that began yesterday afternoon has continued today, the general staff of the Serbian forces has said in a statement, without releasing any details on the fighting. [passage omitted]

According to eyewitnesses everything—trees, vineyards, orchards—are in flames in the area between Zadar and Biograd. A fire is raging to the west of Benkovac and Obrovac.

The Croatian forces today fired shells on Karin. A woman was wounded and immediately taken to the Sveti Sava hospital in Knin. Eight Serbian fighters, wounded in the latest confrontations and attacks by the Croatian Army on the Krajina positions and civilian facilities, have also been treated in the hospital since yesterday.

There have been no official confirmations as to whether the Serbian forces are again firing on the [Maslenica] bridge, but this seems likely. This has been indirectly confirmed to a TANJUG reporter by the Colonel Kosta Novakovic, deputy commander of the Krajina Serb army main headquarters, who, when asked if the bridge had been hit, said that he still did not know.

Attacks on Serb-Held Krajina Reported

LD2408102693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Knin, 24 Aug (TANJUG)—After a relatively quiet night, the Croatian Army this morning resumed intense activity along the line of demarcation between the battlefields of northern Dalmatia and Lika. Major General Borislav Djukic, chief of staff of the Serb army of Krajina, told journalists that the towns of Benkovac and Gracac have been hit by howitzers, artillery fire, and shells from multiple-rocket launchers. More than 20 large and destructive shells landed.

The Serb army of Krajina is not yet responding to these fierce attacks but protests to the UN Protection Force are not yielding results, General Djukic stressed.

Granic Replies to Mostar Aid Appeal

LD2408102193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Mate Granic, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Croatia has replied on behalf of President Tudjman to the letter sent yesterday to the Croatian president by German Foreign Minister Dr. Klaus Kinkel.

In his reply to the letter, in which Minister Kinkel appeals to President Tudjman to use his influence to ensure the smooth passage of humanitarian convoys and the dispatch of aid to the Muslims in Mostar, Dr. Granic stresses that the president of the republic and he personally will do everything in their power to ensure that the aid reaches everyone needing it, and without any preconditions.

Dr. Granic stresses that he personally has undertaken many actions with UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] and humanitarian organizations, and that some have already contributed to certain improvements on the ground.

At the same time the Croatian foreign minister appeals to Klaus Kinkel, in the name of President Tudjman, to use all his influence so that aid might also reach the four Croatian enclaves, where 190,000 Croats are surrounded, and so that the sick and injured might be evacuated from Nova Bila, and the aggression against central Bosnia stopped.

Embassy Spokesman in UK on Aid for Mostar

LD2408100793 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 23 Aug 93

[Interview with Drago Stambuk, Croatian Embassy spokesman in London, by presenter Zeinab Badawi on 23 August; from the "Channel Four News" program—live]

[Text] [Badawi] We are going to hear an announcement from Croatia tonight. What exactly are we going to be told?

[Stambuk] That it's going to be unconditional passage of freedom to eastern part of Mostar, which has become divided city, and both sides are suffering badly. The thing is that western part of Mostar is connected with life-line and Croatian roads, that is why it's probably better supplied, but nevertheless conditions are pretty bad in western part too. The Croats up to now were asking for preconditions because as we know, in central Bosnia horrible things are going on and horrible things are happening to Croats. There are about 150,000 Croats ethnically cleansed from central Bosnia. City after city has been overrun by Muslim Bosnian forces, and also 3,000 civilians have been killed by Muslim forces. There are four enclaves in central Bosnia which are surrounded by Muslim forces, and about nearly 200,000 Croats are not getting humanitarian aid there either, [word indistinct] for example has no water today.

[Badawi] Can I ask you, looking at the eastern Muslim sector of Mostar—for weeks they have been denied food supplies by the Bosnian Croats there—what has made you change your mind?

[Stambuk] First, the Croatian Government has done great pressure on local Bosnian Croats, and of course Croatia has always complied, was very willing to cooperate, and Croatian Government has done its best, at the moment Mr. [word indistinct] minister of foreign affairs. I have spoken to him half an hour ago. He said that he did his utmost to persuade the Bosnian Croats to allow humanitarian convoys into eastern part of Mostar, and I think he has succeeded.

[Badawi] Is he himself, the foreign minister, going to be going to Mostar?

[Stambuk] He told me that he would be very willing to go if there is need for that, even immediately if it is necessary.

[Badawi] You heard Cedric Thornberry express some skepticism about whether Bosnian Croat forces on the ground would respect this agreement. How confident are you that they will?

[Stambuk] I think I am pretty confident that convoys will be allowed unconditionally into eastern part of Mostar. I got that feeling from the minister of foreign affairs, who is very decisive and very forceful in that way toward that direction.

[Badawi] You mentioned the Muslim offensive in central Bosnia. Do the Croats want to see aid convoys getting through to encircled Croatian populations?

[Stambuk] Absolutely. That is the reason those were the preconditions, and that is why humanitarian aid was not allowed to eastern Mostar, also there is [word indistinct] hospital which has about 150 terribly wounded and sick patients. There is now the fifth day of hunger strike among patients in Split hospital, demanding that they should be evacuated and taken to Croatia, which has not happened because we have allowed Red Cross to see detention camps in Croatian controlled areas, but Mostans [Muslim residents of Mostar] have refused. It is very well documented, they have refused access to detention camps they hold in central Bosnia; they have also refused humanitarian aid to 200,000 Croats in four enclaves, and I think obviously whatever Mostan side does they have been terrible victims in this war, but at the moment Croats are suffering very badly from their hand, and I wonder why are Mostans fighting Croats instead of fighting Serbs.

[Badawi] Let met ask you what about this idea that Mostar should be administered by the EC?

[Stambuk] I think it is going to be quite difficult to do that, because Mostar is city which Croats fought very heavily for. At the beginning, when Serbs were attacking and when they conquered Mostar, Croats liberated it themselves, there are very few Mostans helping them in that. They have liberated Mostar, they held it in control for more than a year and then because Mostan refugees were streaming after ethnic cleansing in occupied parts by Serbs, the population numbers have changed, and after Croats had been majority in Mostar now there is Mostan majority.

Krajina Serbs Say NATO 'Violated Airspace 31 Times'

AU2308150493 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Maslenica bridge is again under the fire control of the Serbian forces. Danko Peric reports from Knin:

[Begin Peric recording] The headquarters of the Serbian army of Krajina has issued a communique stating that the Serbian army has been forced to close the Maslenica bridge and place it under fire control. This will last until the Croatian Army withdraws from the occupied territories of the Serbian Krajina.

Krajina military sources also stated that the Croatian Army is bringing reinforcements to the Drnis front in order to make new gains from the occupied Miljevac plateau. In the last 24 hours, the villages of Baljci, Mirlovic Polje, and Kanjani in the Drnis area came under fire from mortars and multiple rocket launchers. Drnis itself was attacked with tanks. Several howitzer shells landed on Karin. Korlat, near Benkovac, was attacked with multiple rocket launchers. There were also some provocations on the Lika and Banija fronts.

The headquarters of the Serbian army of Krajina stated that NATO aircraft violated the airspace 31 times and that the Serbs did not respond to the provocations of the Croatian Army. [end recording]

Official Dissatisfied With UNPROFOR Performance

LD2308174093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Branimir Glavas, coordinator of the commission for the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] in Sector East, has expressed dissatisfaction with UNPROFOR's work in Sector East. In the past 18 month, UNPROFOR has achieved nothing other than putting an end to direct military attacks. About 5,000 Croats and other non-Serbs have been driven out of the temporarily occupied parts of Slavonia and Baranja, while 700 people, mainly Croats, have been killed, Branimir Glavas told HINA.

The coordinator of the commission for UNPROFOR in sector east added that he is particularly dissatisfied with the work of (Blandina Nega), the UNPROFOR commander for civil affairs in the sector, because not a single Croat or Hungarian returned home in the past period.

We have reliable information that UNPROFOR members pass information on to the Serb forces of occupation, Glavas said, and added that this will not be tolerated. At a meeting of the government's commission for UNPROFOR on Wednesday, which will be attended by Vice Premier Seks, we will demand that this be prevented, Glavas said.

Speaking about two incidents—when a three-member Croatian family was driven out of Baranja last week and a young girl, Marina Matosevic, was expelled from Erdut—Glavas stressed that it is impermissible that the ethnic cleansing and harassment of Croats are taking place in UNPROFOR's presence.

We will also demand that every UNPROFOR member announce his arrival; these members will not be allowed to move in the town without our escort, Branimir Glavas said, and added that provocations on the frontline are becoming increasingly frequent.

Necessity of Military Production Stressed

93BA1349C Zagreb DANAS in Serbo-Croatian 23 Jul 93 pp 29-31

[Article by Edvard Popovic: "Embargo on Military Intellect"]

[Text] *Three years after the beginning of the war, Croatia is still importing—or better, smuggling—explosives and gunpowder, even though the Croatian chemical industry was the backbone of the military industry for the needs of the former Yugoslavia.*

Viewed from a shifted perspective, the September 1991 embargo by the international community on the export of arms and military equipment to the territory of the former Yugoslavia could have been a challenge to the Croatian military industry (at the time still in its infancy), in which positive results would have ensured a more certain outcome of the homeland war, given the technological level of the Croatian economy, tradition, and the huge reserve of know-how. After all, given the fact that the embargo problem is more a problem of transport than of purchase, it relates primarily to large-scale military technology; thus, Croatia cannot buy fighter aircraft, tanks, armored personnel carriers, artillery, and missile systems, while it has practically no problem acquiring the raw materials with which a well-organized military industry can satisfy basic wartime needs. This would mean in translation that Croatia could easily produce explosives, powder, ammunition and shells, military uniforms, shoes, weapons—in short, everything without which a country at war cannot count on final victory, if that is what it really wants.

To a certain extent, the chaotic beginnings of the Croatian military industry, the period when mortars, shells, and "drunken ustashi" were produced without any order and coordination, and thus the period when it was necessary to improvise (for example, launchers of antiurban missiles were used as multiple- or single-missile launchers) was tolerable until the arrival of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces].

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia, or rather the Administration for Production of MO [expansion not given] of the Republic, could have used the period that followed to organize production in accordance with the restrictions caused by the embargo, to pave the way for the Croatian classic economy to flourish in the military sense as well. Favorable conditions were in place.

This war can be won by machinists, electronic engineers, chemists, and Croatian universities, an expert in arms production predicted earlier, assuming the resolve of people at the front lines. The impression here, however, is that in addition to the embargo on the import of war technology and the possible sanctions that would put Croatia, and thus its military industry as well, in an even more unfavorable position, there is something else at work here that could be called an auto-embargo, or auto-sanctions, and which relates most of all to intellect.

What other explanation is there for the fact that earlier, when it was not even suspected that the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina would enter its current phase, Croatia refused an offer by Croat experts from two key Bosnia-Herzegovina factories to move their production lines to Croatia? These were the Travnik artillery factory (a world-famous producer whose brand name is highly respected) and the missile and artillery powder factory in Vitez, whose importance outstrips local intellect and the local values system. After all, this was a proposal to move some of the technology from Travnik to Croatia, where artillery barrels would then be produced.

Raw materials for production (steel with 3 to 5 percent nickel and chromium) can still be acquired on the world market, despite the fact that every producer knows that they are intended for artillery equipment—especially in the case of large pieces that would later be rolled out into

ready pieces at Croatian factories for manufacturing artillery barrels. The matter with the Vitez factory was much simpler; the proposal was that one production line of powder (which was, by the way, preserved, meaning in wartime reserve) be moved to Croatia, while the problem of the components necessary for production was practically minimal—one of the main producers of nitric acid for the former Yugoslavia was the fertilizer factory in Kutina.

What else can be said about the lack of perspective with regard to the "Igman" factory in Konjic (the part that also could have been moved to Croatia), where previously hundreds of metric tons of brass and powder for the production of ammunition for Kalashnikovs and Browning machine guns passed through Croatia (presumably with the knowledge of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic), weapons that Bosnia-Herzegovina Army fighters are now using to kill HVO [Croat Defense Council] fighters?

What too can be said about the fact that some really top experts in pyrotechnics, internal ballistics, rocket fuel, and top-notch military experts in general, some of whom did their doctoral work at prestigious foreign military academies, are not involved in the Croatian military industry today? Some of them are giving lectures at the HV [Croatian Armed Forces] officers center that can also be given by somewhat more experienced sergeants, while a large share of them have been forced into complete anonymity, are retired, or are waiting to retire.

Machinists and electronic engineers, our sources say, have performed their part of the job well—in a relatively short period of time they have managed to produce multiple missile launchers, missiles, recoilless rifles and ammunition for them, mortars and shells, ammunition for artillery, targeting equipment, infantry weaponry, and other equipment. The impression is that chemists, or rather the chemical industry, have not done all of their part of the job. Three years later, Croatia is still importing—or better, smuggling—explosives and gunpowder. Sometimes this is unsuccessful, as in the case of the ship loaded with explosives that was seized on the Adriatic, with a Croatian port as its destination. It is not unimportant that the Croatian chemical industry (Ina, Chromos, Pliva) was the backbone of the military industry for the needs of the former Yugoslavia, as far as chemical products and semifinished products are concerned. To what extent are these capacities being utilized today? How necessary is it to export chemical components that constitute up to 95 percent of an explosive and then import an industrial explosive that can scarcely be used for military purposes? How necessary is it in general—and there are plenty of opportunities to do so—to import explosives at prices as much as five times greater than the standard market prices if, with a little effort and will and with the involvement of local experts, all this can be produced in Croatia?

Indeed, imports mean a good commission for all participants in the chain. That chain will break, however, if Croatia is subjected to sanctions, when world producers of explosives, powder, and military equipment will no longer be able to wink at the unusually large orders, or rather when they will have to justify them to their own governments. It will also break the moment that Croatia no longer has the means to pay five times the price for something that it could produce on its own under normal circumstances. And that is what Belgrade is counting on—to exhaust Croatia economically, and then deal it the decisive blow. Or in a more optimistic variant—to soften Croatia up so much that it agrees to something to which it would never agree if it were strong. It is hard to shake the impression that part of the world community too, first through the embargo and now through threats of sanctions, has a material interest similar to Belgrade's. In this segment, the military industry, can Croatia thwart the designs of these people?

Federal

Air Force Colonel Charged in Downing of EC Helicopter

AU2308145593 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 23 (AFP)—A Yugoslav Air Force colonel has been charged in connection with shooting down an EC helicopter over Croatia in January 1992, killing five EC observers, the newspaper BORBA reported Monday.

The newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, said Colonel Zivadin Vasiljevic would go on trial September 25 before a military court here.

The EC helicopter, carrying four Italian officers and one French observer, was shot down by a Yugoslav fighter jet over the Croatian town of Novi Marof, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Zagreb.

BORBA said Vasiljevic, who at the time of the incident was commanding the Yugoslav Air Force operations center, stood accused of "failing to inform the Air Force command" of the presence of the EC helicopter in Yugoslav airspace.

The command subsequently sent a fighter to intercept the aircraft and the pilot "after a vain warning, fired missiles at the helicopter," BORBA said.

Yugoslav military authorities said the EC helicopter had failed to obtain permission to fly in what was then Yugoslav air space.

The commander of the Yugoslav Air Force, General Zvonko Jurjevic, was dismissed following the incident.

Sudden Drop of Hard Currency Rates

93BA1331C Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Jul 93 p 9

[Article by Lj. Cudomirovic: "The Purchase of Foreign Exchange is an Open Secret"]

[Text] It is true. Even our bank has for two days been purchasing foreign currency and is paying the public the dinar equivalent into their account. Mainly into the current accounts of the sellers, but we are transferring dinars to any account which sellers of marks, dollars, or any convertible currencies indicate. It is also true that on the first day of those purchases, that is, the day before yesterday, we were paying 21 million dinars at the outset for 1 German mark [DM]; yesterday morning, 20, and during the day the exchange rate fell to 8 million per DM1. And finally, it is also true that this kind of purchasing of foreign currency is not covered by the regulations. We are aware that we could in some way fall afoul of the law. But if that actually happens, if the government decides to "sharpen" its teeth on us, forcing us to stay within the limits of legislation governing transactions with foreign exchange, and continues, as it has up to now, to look the other way from the hundreds of supposed currency exchange offices and false savings banks, that would really be scandalous and incomprehensible not only from the standpoint of the law-governed state, but even from the standpoint of its immediate economic interests. We are not buying this foreign exchange to make money with it, but, I repeat, so that our firms, our customers, and our founders can use that foreign exchange wherever imports are still possible to obtain spare parts or some of the raw materials they are lacking at some kind of acceptable price for that foreign exchange. If they cannot do it through us, they will purchase the foreign exchange fifth-hand or 10th-hand; You will not believe this, but yesterday more than 40 million dinars were paid for DM1 through that kind of scalping arrangement. That datum itself is sufficiently indicative for every layman to understand why at this moment Yugoslavia has this kind of inflation and why, if it has to be, it is not less. This was the statement made yesterday, uttered almost in a single breath, by one of the people in position of greatest responsibility for foreign exchange transactions in one of the largest banks of Serbia, one of those we refer to as a "government" bank. Two or three of the other largest banks in Serbia have followed their example, but above all because they have lost patience waiting for the government and monetary authorities to enforce any constructive legal regulations. None of the officials in them, however, was willing to make official statements yesterday, and so the overall impression was of yet another of our "open secrets." Ordinary people, it is true, have commented on the new lines in the streets waiting to sell for account money even in the government banks as just another sure sign that business and the economy are in chaos.

There is evidence that this is not exactly so in the datum that in just two days the exchange rate for account money, which first went sky high, began to fall, above all because the government banks also became involved in this race, although the "right" to make purchases with account money was reserved until a few days ago exclusively to those with overt and covert authorization. As soon as the latter lost the monopoly, the exchange rate for account money also began to fall, and if the government and monetary authorities have really come to fully understand the essence of everything that has been happening since the beginning of this week, we will not have to wait long for the day when the difference between the exchange rate for account money and the exchange rate on the black market, and we believe also that official exchange rate, will not really be so great. Regardless of how high it is.

Serbia

Government Proposes Abolition of Republic Ministries

LD2308125293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1031 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 23 Aug (TANJUG)—The Serbian Government today proposed to the republican parliament the abolition of three republic ministries—the

Ministries of National Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Economic Relations with Foreign Countries and Economic Development.

A draft amendment to the law on ministries, recommended for adoption according to urgent procedures, stresses that some of the tasks of these ministries will be transferred to the federation, while some will remain under the republic governments. [passage omitted]

Ministry Prohibits Passage to Hungarian, Romanian Ships

AU2408104893 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 19 Aug 93 p 16

[Report by Cedomir Lakic: "Hungarian and Romanian Ships Stopped"]

[Text] The Danube traffic has recently become the focus of public attention. Following the announcement by the Belgrade patriotic organizations that they would block the Danube and prevent foreign ships from passing through for as long as the sanctions are in force against us, foreign ships have indeed been stopped over the last few weeks. They were allowed to resume sailing only after various interventions by the federal and other bodies.

Yesterday afternoon, Serbian Transportation Minister Zarko Katic informed the portmaster's offices in Bezdan, Veliko Gradiste, and Kladovo to prevent passage of Hungarian and Romanian ships. Hungarian ships, which transport ore to the steel works in Cenel, will not be allowed to proceed as long as the relevant Hungarian authorities do not allow passage to trucks with humanitarian aid and medicine for Yugoslavia. According to the information received, 17 tonnes of medicine are being kept in Hungary, medicine on which many sick people here depend on. The Serbian Transportation Ministry has, up till now, allowed passage to Hungarian ships transporting ore to the steel works. On several occasions, talks have been held between the Transportation Ministry and the Hungarian Embassy in Belgrade, but these talks produced no result by yesterday, when the portmaster's office in Bezdan stopped a ship with ore for the steel works until further orders arrive.

Problems with the Romanian neighbors also happen on a daily basis and are just as serious. During the past months and last year, a large number of our citizens has been crossing into Romania to purchase fuel and other goods. They have been travelling in their own cars and crossing the border at Kaludjerovo, Batin, Srpska Crnja, and Nakovo. However, these days there has been increasingly frequent reports about abuse of our citizens on their return from Romania. People have had to wait for one to three days on the border due to slow processing or due to some deliberate policy of the Romanian border customs officials. One should not even mention the prices of water and other things offered to these unfortunate people.

Yesterday, Minister Zarko Katic decided to prohibit passage to all Romanian ships on the Danube until Romanian customs officials imcrease their speed and reduce the problems facing Yugoslavs travelling to Romania. As we have been told, the portmaster's office in Veliko Gradiste yesterday followed this order.

Seselj Says U.S. Wants Troops in Balkans

AU2308200393 Warsaw POLITYKA in Polish 21 Aug 93 pp 16, 17

[Interview with leader of Serbian Radical Party, Vojislav Seselj by Katarzyna Jozwiak-Dragovic; place and date not given: "It Will Be Real Hell"]

[Text] [Jozwiak-Dragovic] It is said that the Serbs are an aggressive and warlike people.

[Seselj] The Serbs are aggressive and warlike in a patriotic sense, not in a pathological sense. In peacetime they are very gentle and friendly.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] You are fond of reminding the world that Serbia has never waged any offensive wars, only defensive ones. In that case how would you describe the present war?

[Seselj] The Serbs are merely liberating territories inhabited by Serbian people. We did not want to leave Yugoslavia, as Croatia did. The fact that the Croats considered Serbian towns and villages to be Croatian is their problem. They seized an enormous portion of our lands under the dictatorship of the tyrant Josip Broz Tito, and now they think they are entitled to keep them. In any case, we are not asking them to pull out. The Croats have never been threatened. But the Serbs in Croatian territory have always been threatened. In Jasenovac alone, the Croatians murdered 700,000 Serbs, and in Kozara they murdered 11,000 Serbian children [references to Croatian atrocities in World War II].

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] What is going to happen to Bosnia?

[Seselj] We are not excessive optimists. The only solution is to fix the fronts. We are not going to bargain with our own land. Not one hectare of ethnic Serbian land can be surrendered, unless that action conforms to Serbian interests, which only a referendum can determine.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] What do you think of [Serbian Renewal Party leader] Vuk Draskovic's proposal that Bosnia remain under UN protection?

[Seselj] I consider that treason.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] How long do you think the sanctions will last?

[Seselj] A very long time. Even the Russian Government supports them. In any case, if the Russians reject Sevastopol, why should they support the Serbs? I guarantee you that the sanctions will not be lifted until the West has achieved its objectives in Kosovo, Sandzak, and

Vojvodina. Our regime's main problem is that it is constantly making concessions to Western politicians about one thing or another. That is a great mistake. When the sanctions were declared last year, we should have broken off all talks and said that there will be no talks as long as there are sanctions.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] How do you imagine that you can take on the rest of the world? If there had been no talks, there would have been intervention by now. You never believed intervention would take place, and yet the threat of bombing is once again hanging over the Serbs.

[Seselj] Bombing is not out of the question, but the Americans do not know the Serbian character, and cannot imagine what would happen if bombing took place. The result would be the exact opposite of what the Americans want to achieve. The West has always sided with the Slovenes, the Croats, and the Muslims, and has made this too obvious for us to allow them to dictate terms to us. No, we will not permit any armed intervention. But if it does occur, we will oppose it by all means at our disposal. There would be real hell. The West will never know where their front is, and where their rear. We will wage a partisan war, we will attack them where they least expect it. We will poison their food and water, and plant bombs. The West should remember Vietnam.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] Are the Serbs capable of opposing all their neighbors?

[Seselj] We have succeeded in opposing much greater opponents. Remember World War I and the glorious Serbian victory over the Austro-Hungarian Army. Remember World War II and the Serbian battle with the fascists and Ustashe. Where were the Croats, Slovenes, and Albanians then? We fought the Turkish occupiers for five centuries. No one will find it easy to deal with us.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] So why has the world become "obsessed" with the Serbs?

[Seselj] Because the West wants the Balkans to remain a hotbed of conflict forever, in order to justify the presence of American and other forces in these territories. Where are the 300,000 American forces in Germany supposed to go? The most convenient thing to do would be to send them here, would it not? The Germans themselves also have their own clear interests—access to the Adriatic via Austria, which can best be achieved with the help of allies, Croatia and Serbia.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] When the Croats rehabilitated the Ustashe symbols, the Serbs, naturally enough, protested. But then the Serbs themselves started to rehabilitate the Chetniks.

[Seselj] The Ustashe and the Chetniks are not the same. The Chetniks do not have genocide on their conscience. They were warriors for freedom. They defended the "honor of the cross and golden freedom," they fought for "king and fatherland," and, obviously, they fought the Ustashe, defending the Serbian people against them. In occupied Yugoslavia, they were the first to oppose fascism. The Western allies betrayed them and surrendered Yugoslavia to the communists. And yet now they are calling us Bolsheviks.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] And what do you say about the fact that some Chetniks collaborated with the Germans?

[Seselj] There is no concrete evidence of that. It is the communists who collaborated with the Germans and concluded a pact with them. Unfortunately, history is written by the victors. The communists blamed the Serbs for all the atrocities they had on their own conscience. That should be obvious to you. After all, you know better than I what happened to the Polish Home Army soldiers after the war, and how their struggle was interpreted.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] How many Chetniks do you have?

[Seselj] However many we have, we will always win.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] They call you the "red duke," saying that you are an extension of [Serbian President] Milosevic.

[Seselj] That is nonsense, propagated by Draskovic and people like him, who are vanishing from the political scene.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] You are accused of breaking up the already incohesive opposition inside parliament.

[Seselj] I am not doing that. I am an oppositionist myself.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] All right, what about the other part of the opposition?

[Seselj] The other part are all traitors. It is a pity that so many of them leave the chamber during debates, because as soon as they speak from the rostrum, we know what the intentions of the Americans are.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] How would you prevent a war in Kosovo?

[Seselj] First, I would move all the military and police academies to Kosovo, I would concentrate even greater forces there, and would be prepared to react sharply to any sign of an Albanian uprising. I would open mines and power stations in areas inhabited by the Albanians, and would give passports to those who long for a more democratic society. I would give the Albanians the right to open their own schools, with their own curricula. But let them pay for this themselves, let them pay taxes and respect the law. But the problem is that is exactly what they do not want to do! I would prevent all the foreign delegations visiting Kosovo from entering our country. Since the United Nations has "blackballed" us, I would "blackball" them.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] You have led demonstrations in Belgrade many times, so why are you criticizing Vuk Draskovic's demonstrations? Can a democratic society afford the arrest of an opposition leader?

[Seselj] It is true I have led many demonstrations, but I have never advocated violence. What I saw on television that night was the behavior of a psychopath whom no society can tolerate.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] What do you think of the French Government's offer of medical treatment for Draskovic and his family in Paris?

[Seselj] I would have nothing against it if the Draskovic family traveled to Paris by normal means, but the French Government placed a special aircraft at their disposal, while our children are dying in hospitals because of a lack of basic drugs.

[Jozwiak-Dragovoc] How do you view Polish reaction to the conflict?

[Seselj] The Poles are in solidarity with other Catholics. That is your business, we are not going to fraternize with you. There have never been any conflicts between us in history, but today you are supporting our enemies, and one day, when you find yourselves in a situation similar to ours, when the Germans try to reestablish their former eastern border, do not expect any help from us.

[Jozwiak-Dragovic] You think we are in danger of that?

[Seselj] The whole of Europe is in such a danger. United Germany means the end of the EC, which will shortly disintegrate. And then the Germans will demand what they consider rightfully theirs.

Commentary Views Seselj's Strategy

AU2308184393 Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian 13 Aug 93 pp 27-28

[Commentary by Cvijetin Milivojevic: "A Rose in the Hand of the Warlord"]

[Text] The self-appointed Serbian democratic opposition, the one that has seized the exclusive right to overthrow Milosevic with the aim of saving Serbia, is now for the second time in the last three months offering a hand to the drowning red body. Everything started with the Vance-Owen plan and Milosevic's ultimatum to Karadzic, when almost the whole "democratic cast" from the national opposition (with the exception of the Democratic Party of Serbia and some minor parties) took the Belgrade regime's part and opposed the Bosnian Serbs. They pardoned the present leadership for its mistakes and started openly collaborating with them, as was proven in parliament some time ago. When the new budget was voted on, the Depos [Democratic Movement of Serbia] members and the Democratic Party played the role of the "court of reconciliation" in order to save the illegitimate coalition of the Socialists and Radicals....

Vojislav Seselj concluded with satisfaction that it was at last proven who was the satellite and who the real opposition. The so-called democratic opposition could do nothing but remain silent when faced with the cruel arguments brought by the former "red warlord" and "the president's favorite politician." They had no other choice except to continue their already lost slanging match against the impenetrable Bastille walls of the present regime, just like Stentor in front of the walls of Troy. The absurdity is complete if we know that all the hopes of the "democratic" and the other Serbia are directed at 15 September and at the man who set this deadline, by which the Socialists should "start solving the problems in the country."

Patience

Is the "Party of Reserve Socialists" the only serious opposition power in Serbia at present, or is it yet another perfect political maneuver of the Socialist and the Radical Parties, into whose trap "traitors and foreign hirelings" should fall?

This question is indirectly answered by a member of the SPS [Socialist Party of Serbia]'s Executive Committee, Mr. Dragutin Brcin: "Not only are we not in an official coalition with the SRS [Serbian Radical Party]; we are not in a de facto coalition with them either. Our party is the strongest party in parliament and it respects the will of the people as expressed in free elections. Taking into consideration the distribution of votes in parliament, it is obvious that a vote of no confidence in the Socialist minority government would lead to a parliamentary crisis. It is doubtful, however, whether the answer to such a situation would be new elections. In addition to that, it is also very doubtful who would win them."

The core of the answer given by the SRS leader is: "We create events, and the SPS allows them to surprise it."

The lowest common denominator between the attitudes of the two parties is their fear of elections. This is what makes the difference between the Radical and the Socialist Party on the one hand and the so-called democratic opposition on the other, because the opposition—by its permanent insistence on "early elections, always, until we win"—only urges yet another election defeat in the present war.

The Radical Party is, on the other hand, aware that their radical times have come. They are not afraid of early elections, because they know that every new day under the Socialist leadership means new votes for them. This is simply a fact that has for the last three years been neglected by the part of the opposition that is personified in the Serbian Renewal Movement. As long as the war is going on in Bosnia and Krajina and as long as the situation in Kosovo is not resolved, it would be ill-advised to open a front against the personality of Slobodan Milosevic. Now, when the national strategy of the Socialist Party across the Drina River is also approved by the international community, this party is in its national engagement simply—untouchable.

Vojislav Seselj respects these things and is looking for his chance by systematically undermining the basis of the SPS leadership, that is to say the traditional SPS voters—the workers, betrayed peasants, hungry pensioners

and the radical part of the military establishment. Seselj is effecting what the SPS promised before every election ("There is no insecurity with us!"). To the theory of social security he is adding the demagogic overtone of social leveling ("as long as there are sanctions, and they will remain effective for ten years"), thus combining Churchill's call for "blood, sweat and tears" with the German and American experiences of between the two world wars in the field of public works, equal distribution of earnings, self-imposed isolation....

What makes him different from the rest of the opposition is "his care for the state and the nation" and his blunt refusal to solve political and social conflicts outside parliament.

"Any mass strike or street rebellion would lead to bloodshed and a civil war, which would enable nondemocratic parties to seize power and establish a dictatorship. I do not want to take responsibility for such events, and if such an opinion prevails in the SPS, I shall not take part in it," Seselj warned.

Crime

Operations "Cosic" and "Panic" can be considered rehearsals for what the Socialists will come across in September unless they start working in the meantime on the third thesis from the inaugural speech of the president in January. Vojislav Seselj is already warning that the "struggle against crime" cannot in his opinion be fought by arresting two former ministers. If he starts a witchhunt, he could even find a wolf, because the present leadership is to a great extent dependent on systematic crime, for which the expressions "business and patriotism under the sanctions," "primary bank issue," and suchlike are used.

The next Achilles' heel of the ruling party that the Radical Party is exploiting is the fact that the election of certain key personnel in state institutions depends on the SRS, and this party—because it does not participate in the executive power—has no responsibility for any mistakes. The best example of the SRS influence on SPS personnel policy is the case of Nebojsa Covic, who lost the position of Serbian prime minister designate after he had publicly said "no" to a coalition with the Radical Party.

And last not least, the Radical Party expresses its superiority over the Socialist Party also in Bosnia and Krajina, thus endangering the charisma of Slobodan Milosevic. The curse that Seselj placed upon Milosevic's man Goran Hadzic [leader of the Krajina Serbs] is a clear sign that this favorite of Belgrade's regime will also soon be eliminated from the political scene. "Unless Milosevic removes Seselj in the meantime," as the supporters of the thesis that Seselj is nothing more than one of Milosevic's puppets might say.

Even if the Serbian president were in the position to do such a thing, Seselj is now so well behaved that he will not give Milosevic a chance even to think about his elimination. Hrtkovci and similar aggressive adventures ceased to be the political method of the Radical Party a long time ago, and the latest decision of Seselj's to deprive the SRS member Ceko Dacevic from Pljevlja of his representative's mandate is the best answer to the Montenegrin and Serbian leaderships to their accusations that Radical Party members are extremists, tyrants, or even stormtroopers with a taste for fascism.

The Krajinas

Does the bunch of red roses have enough insecticide to defend its power?

The Serbian Socialist Party showed the first visible signs of nerves by suddenly launching the idea about unifying all Yugoslav leftist parties and establishing a SPS committee in the Serbian Krajinas. Also the Montenegrin ruling party [the Democratic Party of Socialists] is aware of the impending danger from the Radical Party. That is why they agreed to coordinate the political left parties in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, although it had seemed at the beginning that the Democratic Party of Socialists would reject this idea as hegemonic.

An even better example was the announcement that the SPS would extend its activities to the Serbian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the republic of Serbian Krajina (which was later withdrawn), where the Socialist Party received the necessary support from the Serbian people in the period from the election in 1990 until 9 March 1991 [when there was the demonstration against the regime] and up to the last election.

According to the social story written by the Radical Party, the Socialist Party is now announcing control of inflation and a better life for the poorest. And to be on the safe side, they have reduced Seselj's appearances on state television.

This means that the Socialist Party hopes that it will manage to keep Seselj in a good mood by making concessions from time to time. They also hope that the so-called democratic opposition would rather cooperate with the SPS than with the SRS. In the opposite case, there are two options: They can either withdraw, or they can agree to play the role of Seselj's puppet.

Factory Growing Mushrooms To Survive Sanctions

93BA1372F Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Aug 93 p 10

[Article by Z. Gajic: "Mushrooms From the Blast Furnace"]

[Text] Smederevo, 4 Aug—When there is no steel, the mushrooms are good. Stated most briefly, that might be the summer report from Sartid, where these days they are waiting for the mushroom harvest instead of iron.

Readers will probably be not too surprised with this development of events in a steel mill, because they

themselves are feeling the impact of the sanctions. Everyone gets by as best he knows and can, and thus the Smederevo metallurgists undertook new programs and projects yielding profit from the first days the sanctions were introduced. The objective was to get through this time and preserve the factory and the labor force. Seeking a way, then, for people at Sartid to remain employed, among other things they started to raise mushrooms.

"In this situation, we have been trying to use every resource we have," says Milan Mikasinovic, director of the Agency for Restructuring. "We realized that food production has exceptional potential, and that is why we tackled the new job with all our strength."

Miodrag Tasic, who heads the Mushroom Production Center, also says that metallurgy and mushrooms nevertheless can go together, explaining that similar combines in the world realize between 10 and 40 percent of their profit in secondary pursuits.

Tasic cites as an argument the datum that the automobile giant Mercedes is the largest producer of turkey meat in Germany.

"It would be a real pity if we did not take advantage of the almost ideal space in the hot-rolling mill. At the beginning of July, we brought 500 sacks of compost to it, so that we expect the first harvest of mushrooms late this month," Tasic says.

Of course, it should be said here that the mentor of the entire project is Dr. Miomir Niksic, professor in the School of Agriculture of Belgrade University in Zemun, and the supplier and chief technologist is Novica Novakovic, the well-known mushroom producer in Vranovo.

There are now 10 employees tending the mushrooms. If everything goes according to plan, and there is no reason why it should not, another 100 steelworkers will find jobs here.

Merchants Determine Valid Banks' Checks

93BA1372E Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Aug 93 p 11

[Article by G.V.: "Only Cashier's Checks Are Recognized"]

[Text] At the kiosk of the Duvan firm on Terazije there is a visible posted notice that this firm does not accept and does not recognize checks of the SP, Fineks, SKO, and Nis Savings Banks, nor Interplast-Trejd, which are duly registered banks. Aside from the assault of savings banks, various new-styled banks, and quasi-banks, which have aggrieved the public in the most diverse ways, but probably also numerous business firms, new checks are now appearing in circulation. In spite of the bitter experience with the business operation of these new financial institutions in the past, there is a question whether the savings banks are permitted to issue checks at all and whether merchants are required to accept them or not.

"Under our regulations and law, only banks have the right to issue checks," says Dr. Milovan Milutinovic, director of the Association of Banks. "A bank must cash a check which its customer has issued regardless of whether it made a good assessment as to whether there is money or not. A number of savings banks also have the right to issue checks," Dr. Milutinovic adds, "but they are valid only internally, in payments among the founders."

For example, Dr. Milutinovic explains, if some holding company has a component that is a savings bank, it can open current accounts for its employees and issue checks. Those checks, however, are valid only for that firm.

Savings banks can also conclude a contract with some bank under which it would guarantee payment of claims based on the checks of the savings bank issued. However, as far as Dr. Milutinovic knows, and he is very well-informed, this has not happened so far. One savings bank which can issue checks and open current accounts for the public is the Postal Savings Bank, but it has a special status under the law. Current accounts are a particular form of saving, and the government guarantees savings in official banks. However, no one guarantees the savings in savings banks.

Savings banks have the right to print and issue their own checks, but no one can guarantee those checks, and people must know that.

Interplast-Trejd, a joint-stock company that is a mixed bank, is the only recognized bank on that list, but the seller, in this case Duvan, is not required to accept its checks. An assessment is made as to whether the bank is sound, whether it has been promptly meeting its obligations, and how safe the business transaction and collection are. If there is warranted suspicion that the check cannot be collected on time, then merchants are not required to accept it. That applies to everyone, including the government banks.

Macedonia

Passport Control Introduced on Border With FRY

LD2308175493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1432 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Skopje, 23 August (TANJUG)—The border authorities of the "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" are, as of today, implementing the Skopje Government decision on the introduction of passport control on their side of the border crossings into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY].

The number of crossings has dropped significantly in both directions at all border crossings into the FRY according to Skopje Radio.

In contrast with the situation in the last few months, there have been no citizens from Serbia at the Skopje markets today.

The decision by the Skopje Government to introduce passport control with the FRY has caused hardly any reaction among the public of the former southernmost Yugoslav republic. Only two political parties—The Albanian Party of Democratic Prosperity from Tetovo and the Democratic Party of Yugoslavs from Gostivar—have issued statements.

The Skopje media have mainly kept silent or attached little significance to the reactions. [passage omitted]

Large Number of Border Crossings Noted

AU2308165293 Skopje MILS-NEWS in English 23 Aug 93

[Unattributed report: "Enormous Number of Yugoslavs Crossing the Border"]

[Text] According to Makpres, more than 20,000 Yugoslav citizens have entered Macedonia in the last 24 hours, thus taking advantage of the last possibility to cross border only with an identity card.

In the opposite direction, during the same period of time only 4,700 people crossed the border, while the main wave of returnees was yesterday afternoon.

As it is known, a note sent by the Macedonian Foreign Ministry on 17 August informed Belgrade that starting from today, Macedonia will introduce a passport regime for the citizens of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Vojvodina

Article Views 'Ethnic Cleansing' of Non-Serbs

AU2308184693 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 9 Aug 93 p 7

[Article by Slavisa Lekic: "Harvesting the Fruits of a Disgraceful Seed"]

[Text] Margit Savovic, federal minister for human and minority rights, has been a member of the first cast to play in the Yugoslav drama for a long time now. As a successful guide for a humanitarian convoy that even managed to reach Hrtkovci, one of the richest villages in Srem, without being "fiercely shot at," she became the prima donna of the Yugoslav tragedy, in which the acts are getting longer and the breaks shorter.

A summary of the first lesson in Serbian, just as in all other politics, is: You have to pretend to be honest or stupid, but not actually be either of these. And especially not both!

Judging from the scarce newspaper articles on the events in Ruma, Hrtkovci and their surroundings, Mrs. Margit Savovic did not learn the first lesson. By expressing her satisfaction with the situation in Hrtkovci, "a place, which was, according to some Yugoslav and foreign media, a synonym for ethnic cleansing," Mrs. Savovic evaluated the events that happened in this part of Srem and came to the result that everything had been—legal. A special statistical delight is that 250 Croatian families left Hrtkovci during the summer of 1992, which is, in her opinion, only a decorative historical fact: "There is proof that they legally exchanged houses!"

The summer of 1992 saw a rapidly growing interest on the part of (not only) the foreign media for the events in Hrtkovci, because Serbian and Croatian misfortunes aroused a storm that forced the people to leave their homes. Many of them even ended up several feet under the fields that they had plowed.

Everything started when someone realized that freedom could be reached by intimidation and threats. A wave of unhappy refugees from Papuk, Bilogora, Grubisno Polje [mountains in Croatia], and who knows from where else, stormed the area of Hrtkovci, where they were welcomed by the already famous author of the thesis about the "high-quality Serbs"—Mr. Ostoja Sibincic, who was at that time still a member of the Serbian Renewal Movement. As a discharged Yugoslav People's Army officer, a soldier at "the Vukovar front" (where he—according to the allegations of one of his men—"was an expert at discovering and eliminating Croats"), he spat at "Serbian chauvinism," or, to be more exact, at the native population who did not have much understanding for "the people from the mountains" and who moved into the houses of their neighboring Croats and Hungarians against their will. It has to be mentioned that Sibincic and his friends' hospitality coincides with the emergence of Seselj's Radical Party in this village. At their promotion ceremony a list of 200 "disloyal" hosts, mostly Croats and Hungarians was published. The list also included the names of those "unfortunate Serbs," those misguided Serbian brothers who opposed the expulsion of their neighbors.

Hrtkovci has to be analyzed as a village. Before World War II Germans, Hungarians, and Serbs lived here together in peace. Ante Pavelic [leader of pro-Nazi Independent State of Croatia] expelled the Serbs in 1942 and settled Croats from Herzegovina here. There are witnesses who swear that the Croats from Hrtkovci poured boiling oil on the tortured Serbs as they were leaving the village in a line. They were paid back in 1948, when this area was populated by Serbs from Croatia. The present general trend of obeying the motto: "All Serbs in one state," and the intensified activity of Seselj's Radical Party members brought up the issue of non-Serbs for discussion again. It should not be forgotten that Franjo Tudjman thanked the population of Hrtkovci for their solidarity with "the homeland" in a television address on 24 April.

The Serbs have always had good memories, especially in this problematic area. The influx of the "high-quality Serbs" from the other side of the "homeland" changed the ethnic picture of Hrtkovci overnight. Croats who came to this village from Duvno, Kijevo, Busovaca, Vitez and Kupres [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] during World War II left.... After Ostoja Sibincic had been appointed head of the local commune, demonstrations were organized, during which the Croats were accused of various things, such as "issuing licenses for ammunition transporters" or "inventing a genocidal bomb;" various documents were shown, including one "in which a Croatian author, because of his hatred for the Serbs, does not mention them by their names...." Several hundred people—instead of voting—applauded in such a demonstration in July 1992, approving of Sibincic's decision to change the name of the village from Hrtkovci to Srbislavci. The chairman of the ethnically clean presidency of the local commune of Hrtkovci held a celebration that night, the names of the streets were changed (the street named after the well-known executioner of Serbs, Mr. Stjepan Radic, will be named after Commander Radomir Putnik, the street named after the admittedly modest Ivo Lola Ribar will be named after the Serbian holiday of Djurdjevdan. Vladimir Nazor, Tito's spy, lost his street, and the sports club "Concord" will naturally be named "Homeland.")

A man was killed in his field (is it necessary to mention that he was a Croat?). Flowerbeds in gardens are "decorated" with grenades, streets and cafes are deserted. The period in which the official leadership was interested in what was later called "the Hrtkovci syndrome," elapsed after only a week after Sibincic had issued the ultimatum that "the police from other places have no business in the building of the local commune until they pay the telephone bill!"

Ostoja Sibincic, who is employed by the Commune of Ruma, announced that Hrtkovci will transfer from the Commune of Ruma to the friendly Serbian Commune of Sabac because "Ruma interfered in our affairs!" He was implicating Depos [Democratic Movement of Serbia] members ("Comrades, the flag has fallen!"), BORBA reporters, Studio B [independent Belgrade television channel] journalists, and the Swiss daily LE NOUVEAU QUOTIDIEN. Thereafter, a delegation led by Triba Ivkovic and Sibincic visited Mr. Mihalj Kertes. In the meantime, bombs started falling into Serbian yards.

It is only natural that high-ranking politicians like Margit Savovic were not informed about the Sibincic-Ivkovic-Kertes troika, who—in their attempt to prove the rationality of things that are in fact senseless—irrationally used the arguments about the danger of living together with those who "could be inclined to Tudjman's politics." Triva Ivkovic, an engineer and manager of the "Metanservis" company from Sremska Mitrovica, a politician of long standing at "Solidarnost" from Novi Sad ("I have already overthrown two leaderships," says Ivkovic), one of the most important personalities of the bureaucratic revolution in Vojvodina, acted as a link between Hrtkovci and Belgrade, that is to say between Sibincic and Kertes. It need not be mentioned that Kertes is a good soldier for all nations (and especially national minorities) and a man of authority in Vojvodina! It should be added that Kertes visited Hrtkovci on several occasions, participated in the work of the local commune, spoke at demonstrations, and received "loyal delegations...." When Sibincic was arrested, he sent a massage saying "I support you!" to the inhabitants of Hrtkovci or Serbislavci, whichever you prefer, because there is no sign with the name of the place. The London peace conference, during which then prime minister Milan Panic played one of his main trump cards by dismissing Kertes from all of his duties in the Federal Government and by ordering that "the initiators of ethnic cleansing in Hrtkovci" be arrested, is a completely different story, which is not at all naive.

Exactly a year ago, Sibincic explained the sudden exchange of the Croats for refugees by "their emotional wish to return to their native land, which would have happened sooner or later anyway." "They left for emotional and rational reasons."

"The Croats listen to Croatian Radio," Rade Cakmak, "the legendary commander," complained. Because of his arrest a delegation from the village went to shake hands with Dobrica Cosic. [sentence as published]

A year ago the aforementioned minister assessed the situation in Hrtkovci as "satisfactory and encouraging." In the meantime, Sibincic's car was blown up, and his family felt how earth-moving vehicles work. After the Croats and Serbs, the same things happened with the Hungarians and the Slovaks. The fear, hatred, and revenge spread to Morovic, Golubica, Slankamen, Kukujevci, and Sid. Through Hrtkovci, though, Serbia is harvesting the fruits grown from that disgraceful seed.

"All those who do not respect the now prevalent Serbian population have to move to where they think they can live better," Ostoja Sibincic said at the last (ethnically cleansed) meeting of the inhabitants of Srbislavci-Hrtkovci organized in the "Sveti Sava" Community Center at the end of 1992. Just before he was arrested.

Neglecting the word "now," Mrs. Margit Savovic pompously spread her pigeon's wings in the former mostly Croatian village of Hrtkovci, with which she wanted to touch the ceiling on the new Yugoslav human rights, making an effort to point out the political skill of certain people. At the expense of the expelled and the newly settled, of the displaced on both sides.

Naturally, we have to exclude the fact that people were not informed about what happened to the $4,000 that Branka Jovanovic, a Belgrade TV journalist, gave Mrs. Savovic as a member of a peace group in Munich!

[Box, p 7]

Ostoja Sibincic: "You Have Made the Quarrel Among the People!"

"I cannot comment on the statement issued by Mrs. Savovic because I was not present when she was speaking. If she really did say that she was pleased with the situation in Hrtkovci, then I am pleased, too. She is a nice lady although I should say that I have seen her only once, but it is certain that she tells the truth. We in Hrtkovci, and as head of the local commune I can say this with full authority, are more than pleased.

If you rascals from BORBA, Studio B, and REPUBLIKA had not come to Hrtkovci, nothing would have happened. You caused the quarrel! You will get what you deserve, sooner or later! Not from God perhaps, but there is the universe, there is hopefully somebody who will pay you back. I spent three months and three days in prison because of you, and the only thing that I wanted was to awaken patriotism in you. You will be punished because you have taken breakfast and supper with traitors to the Serbian people. Shame on you! There is God, you will see. I am not accusing you, you should not misunderstand me, everybody has to do the job he is paid for, but think about who paid you. And I do not want to issue any statement!"

[Box, p 7]

Natasa Kandic: "It is all the same"

"With her inhuman statements and arbitrary allegations, Minister Savovic has done her best to defame the ministry that she represents, which is supposed to protect human and minority rights. Her words: 'The one who beats has to be beaten himself' will be remembered as an attempt by the leadership to settle accounts with demonstrators by beating them," Natasa Kandic, the executive director of the Humanitarian Rights Fund, told BORBA.

In connection with the situation in Hrtkovci, Mrs. Kandic said that the minister appeared there from time to time—accompanied by television and Branka Jovanovic—in order to shout at the cameras that there was no ethnic cleansing. According to Mrs. Kandic, the minister interviewed only people who were allowed to enter the local commune building. Mrs. Kandic concluded that every television session began and ended with the statement that there was no evidence of ethnic cleansing in Hrtkovci.

Here are the facts: In the period from 1 June to 1 September 1992 approximately 1800 inhabitants of the village of Hrtkovci moved to Croatia. Almost the same number came to Hrtkovci from Croatia. This is what Minister Savovic describes as "the legal exchange of estates." The cause of this mass migration was the pressure under which the population lived for months. Certain nationalities and non-Serbs were required to move out. The Serbian Radical Party organized "patriotic demonstrations" in which the names of all those who should move out were read out, there were telephone threats, attacks on the houses of disloyal citizens, several bombs planted, and fighting. But not only Croats left. They took with them Serbian and Hungarian family members, while the newcomers from Croatia brought with them their Croatian and Bosnian family members. It is all the same again.

State Blockade More Difficult Than Sanctions

93BA1372A Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Aug 93 p 10

[Article by S. Zivkovic: "The Government Blockade More Serious Than the International Blockade"]

[Text] Novi Sad, 4 Aug—For more than a year, there has mainly been no sugar or vegetable oil on the shelves of our stores. During that time, factory warehouses have been full of these food articles, but the producers are not willing to market them at prices which they say usually only cover the costs of the packaging. Those prices, as is well-known, are determined by the government, on grounds that this protects the consumer's standard of living.

However, as is also not unfamiliar, the consumers, because these articles are not available legally, obtain them on the so-called black market at prices which are several times higher than those for which their producers are asking. Thus, the tale about sugar and vegetable oil has been going in circles for quite some time now.

Mr. Beric, director of the Vojvodina Business Community for Industrial Crops, has already become inured to the lamentations of managers of sugar mills and oil mills in this province.

In recent days, Mr. Beric has on several occasions organized conversations that were not at all pleasant with representatives of the government on this topic, but it is of interest that it has always been representatives of the federal and provincial governments that have responded, while the competent officials from the government of Serbia, which is most responsible for regulating relations in this area, as far as we know, have not appeared.

Half as Much Sugar

About 35,000 hectares were planted to sugar beets again this spring in Vojvodina, and together with those in central Serbia, about 40,000 hectares have been planted. This is half as much as in earlier years, which means that we can expect this year's sugar production to be half of the usual output at best.

They say at the sugar mills that the sugar beet disease—pipa, which devastated Vojvodina fields this spring as never before, is nevertheless not the only culprit to blame in the planting. The government, they say, also

made a direct contribution through its inappropriate measures, especially by setting unacceptable prices and doing so on the average once every month and a half, in a situation when the prices of certain articles change even twice a day.

What is more, managers of sugar mills are expressing open suspicion as to the good intentions of the republic government, accusing it of persistently undermining all the efforts of sugar producers to overcome their present accumulated troubles.

The consoling news in all of this is that for at least the next year, in spite of the dropoff in the last beet planting, we ought not to have any more drastic shortage of sugar, because inventories from previous years will be marketed one after the other. Assuming, of course, that the government finally leaves the sugar producers, as they put it, in peace and, instead of interfering "where it does not belong," offers appropriate aid.

Production of Vegetable Oil Suspended

The tale about vegetable oil is much like the one about sugar. Here again, the problem with prices has contributed to successive accumulation of a number of troubles, which have recently culminated in the complete interruption of production in all Vojvodina's oil mills. Sreten Djuric, director of the Sombor Oil Mill, has warned that the internal blockade imposed by the government itself on vegetable oil producers has done incomparably more damage than the sanctions of the international community and that for that reason someone in the republic bureaucracy should at least blush when it has come to the point where no one any longer takes seriously the call for accountability.

In the case of vegetable oil, we have recorded yet another absurdity. According to figures from the field, in Vojvodina this year a record yield of about two and a half metric tons per hectare is expected on 190,000 hectares, but that abundant harvest, which in some places has never before been recorded, will bring the producers only headaches unless the government brings about conditions for some kind of normal operation. The main problem is where to put such a quantity of sunflower seed, when inventories already contain about 70,000 tons from last year, and the beginning of the harvest and processing is less than a month away. Representatives of the oil producers have calculated that to purchase sunflowers they need 11 million billion dinars, and they have warned, unless they are provided this from primary issue, they will probably have to put a padlock on the oil mills.